

Hafa Adai!

Kilili: \$36M now available to the CNMI government. PAGE 5
Navy reports first coronavirus death from Roosevelt crew. PAGE 7

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

NEARLY DONE

Work is nearly done on the 50-bed field hospital that is being built at the upper level parking lot behind the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan. The temporary hospital, donated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will be used to handle COVID-19-related cases, should an outbreak happen in the CNMI. The temporary hospital was turned over to the CNMI by the U.S. military and FEMA last April 4 as part of medical supplies and equipment from the Strategic National Stockpile.

KRIZEL TUAZON

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2 new COVID-19 cases confirmed in the CNMI

Two new COVID-19 cases were confirmed yesterday, bringing the CNMI's total confirmed case count to 13.

Both new cases are male: a 55-year-old and a 61-year-old. According to a statement from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., both are in stable condition and are being closely monitored

by CHCC medical teams. These cases are suggestive of community transmission within a cluster of

See COVID-19 on Page 4

NMC students can now apply for federal aid

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College students can now apply for the federal assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Education under the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security Act.

RELATED NEWS

NMC awarded \$1.8M from CARES Act. PAGE 3

All eligible, full-time NMC students received an email yesterday informing them how they could apply for the assistance. Students were asked to fill out an e-form regarding their preferred way of receiving the assistance and their personnel information.

See NMC on Page 4

Coronavirus test kits arrive

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres took to Facebook late Monday night via video feed to announce that the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. has received the first 20,000 test kits that was ordered from South Korea.

In addition to that, Esther

RELATED NEWS

Torres: Our goal is 100% testing. PAGE 3

Muña, CHCC chief executive officer, stated that the current COVID-19 testing technologies are all "laboratory-based polymerase chain reaction," which are being touted as more reliable in that there will be fewer false positives or false negative results.

The test kits that arrived around 10pm on April 13 are the DiaPlexQ (PCR), novel coronavirus detection kit from SolGent in South Korea. PCR is a fast and

See TEST KITS on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:17pm, April 14, 2020

GUAM

Positive: 134
Recovered: 58
Deaths: 6*

CNMI

Positive: 13
Negative: 42
Pending: 4
Deaths: 2

*Total includes a sailor from USS Theodore Roosevelt

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

Torres, Atalig respond to PSS lawsuit

» 3 OAG lawyers serve as counsel for governor, Finance secretary
» OAG says Torres' actions are licensed by state of emergency
» OAG: Ada fails to include Legislature as party in suit

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Finance Secretary David Atalig answered yesterday the lawsuit filed against them before the Superior Court by the Public School System and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada over the annual budget.

Three lawyers from the Office of

See TORRES on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Desperate small businesses that hoped for a quick government help are still without funds.

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GOOD

HOUSEKEEPING

Neuroscientist says that your brain evolved to hoard supplies and shame others for doing so.

PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE

"Trolls World Tour" became the biggest digital debut of all time this weekend.

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Local

Lawmakers seek solutions to halt evictions

By IVA MAURIN

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REPORTER

With layoffs and work hours

being cut in both the private and public sector, many are having difficulty making rent and are now on the

brink of eviction. "I can't think of a worse time to lose a job and to receive a payless payday than

right now, in the midst of a pandemic," House minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) said. "Employ-

ees in the public and private sector who have been laid off and left without a paycheck are trying to figure out how they can protect their family and have them 'stay home' when they are on the verge of losing their home."

Propst said the minority bloc has spoken with House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) on a bipartisan legislation that would prevent evictions, at least until federal assistance is made available.

Saipan Tribune has received emails asking for assistance concerning evictions and alleged related harassment. One employee, who asked about rental assistance from a church-based organization, was told that it has a waitlist of 300 people.

According to Propst, evicting and putting hundreds of families out on the streets within the next months is very likely to increase the spread of COVID-19, not to

mention an added stressor, especially for children who have stopped going to school, and who would then have to stop living in a home.

"We want landlords and property managers to understand that payments can still be collected, and contracts with tenants can be amended for deferments," Propst said. "Banks are very flexible right now and are offering loan deferments, and business loans are readily available through SBA [Small Business Administration]."

The minority bloc has endorsed solutions earlier suggested by Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) in a letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. This include, among others, negotiating with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for its community benefit fund mandatory contribution in the amount of \$37 million for the years 2018 and 2019.

Manglona denies poker robber's 4th motion to set aside prison sentence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has denied a motion to set aside the 120-month prison sentence imposed on John Gerald Castro Pangelinan, a career offender currently in federal prison for Hobbs Act robbery, the use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence, and escape.

In an order Friday, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled that attempted Hobbs Act robbery is a crime of violence under the elements clause.

Hobbs Act is a federal law that prohibits robbery or extortion, or attempted robbery or extortion, that affects interstate or foreign commerce.

Manglona said because Pangelinan's section 924(c) conviction was equally predicated on this offense, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *U.S. vs. Davis* case does not invalidate it. Section 924 (c) refers to the statute on discharging a firearm during a crime of violence.In the *Davis* case, the Supreme Court struck down the residual clause of the firearms statute as unconstitutionally vague.

Manglona said the residual clause's definition of a crime of violence was consequently invalid because "the imposition of criminal punishment can't be made to depend on a judge's estimation of the degree of risk posed by a crime."

Manglona said the Supreme Court's ruling in *U.S. vs. Davis* overturned the Ninth Circuit's 26-year-old decision in *U.S. vs. Mendez* case that conspiracy to commit Hobbs Act robbery is

a predicate crime of violence under the residual clause.

Now, the judge said, to predicate a section 924 (c) firearm conviction, an offense must categorically satisfy the elements clause's definition of a crime of violence.

She directed the clerk of court to close this case.

Pangelinan pleaded guilty in March 2005. On June 3, 2005, the court sentenced him to 169 months for Hobbs Act robbery conspiracy, and 120 months for using and carrying a firearm during a crime of violence, for a total of 289 months.

Pangelinan did not directly appeal any aspect of his conviction or sentence. He, however, collaterally attacked his sentence three times previously. The court denied relief each time. Last Nov. 20, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit authorized Pangelinan to file this fourth motion.

Pangelinan then filed a pro se (without a lawyer) motion to vacate, set aside, or correct his sentence by challenging the 120-month sentence—the sole count for which he now remains incarcerated—in light of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *U.S. vs. Davis*. The District Court subsequently appointed a counsel for him.Pangelinan asserted that the Supreme Court's ruling in the *Davis* case invalidated his conviction for discharging a firearm during a crime of violence.

In response, the U.S. government argued that Pangelinan's petition is both

meritless and procedurally barred.

In denying the defendant's motion, Manglona said the Mendez ruling was controlling precedent when the District Court sentenced Pangelinan in 2005.

Thus, Manglona said, at that time, the first count Pangelinan pleaded guilty to—conspiracy to commit Hobbs Act robbery—was a predicate crime of violence under the residual clause. Because the *Davis* ruling struck down the residual clause and applies retroactively, this previous justification for Pangelinan's section 924 (c) conviction is no longer valid, Manglona said.Pangelinan argued that the *Davis* ruling created a newly recognized right requiring the court to vacate his section 924 (c) firearm conviction.The U.S. government presented two arguments against granting Pangelinan's petition. First, the government claims that Pangelinan's petition is procedurally barred as he did not file a direct appeal after sentencing. Second, the government argues that count 2 of the indictment—attempted Hobbs Act robbery—also predicated Pangelinan's firearm conviction and remains a crime of violence under the elements clause after *Davis*.Manglona said because the *Davis* ruling overturned the longstanding and widespread practice of treating conspiracy to commit Hobbs Act robbery as a predicate crime of violence, it established a new constitutional claim that was

Manglona



KRIZEL TUAZON

BONDING TIME

This family spends one-on-one time at the Micro Beach on Saipan with no other souls in sight in a sign that many residents on the islands are slowly adapting to the social distancing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Torres: Our goal is 100% testing

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The goal in the CNMI is to

conduct 100% testing and that appears within reach, with 20,000 test kits now on the island, which arrived Mon-

day night, along with a much-needed testing machine.

For the past few months, the Commonwealth Health Care

Corp. has been sending specimens for COVID-19 testing to the Guam Public Health Laboratory and, most recently, to the Diagnostic Laboratory Services in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Speaking in a KMPP inter-

view Tuesday morning, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres stated that the goal since Day 1 has always been to conduct a 100% COVID-19 testing in the CNMI.

“Our ultimate goal, since Day 1—working with [Commonwealth Health Care Corp. CEO] Esther [Muña] and the [Governor’s COVID-19] Task Force—is the ability to test our population at 100%,” Torres said. “We have a population of 55,000, of course, including Rota and Tinian. They will be simultaneously checked and get their specimens once we get the machine up and running.”

The governor earlier noted that, aside from those that are under quarantine, testing will be done on nurses, doctors, and first responders, then members of the community.

“We have the nurses and the doctors, and then, of course, our first responders and their families. Also the *man’amko* and, at the same time, with the folks that are being quarantined, either in Kanoa or those at home, and then eventually,

we’ll have a system for the whole community,” he said.

With the CNMI having the capability to do its own testing, the expected turnaround time for getting somebody tested would be around 15 to 20 minutes, as opposed to a day when the specimens are sent off-island.

More test kits will be coming, along with the personal protective equipment, and supplies. According to the governor, the COVID-19 Task Force has ordered 60,000 test kits, and those that came in Monday are part of the first batch of supplies, and that the rest will come within the week.

The COVID-19 Task Force is also currently overseeing expansions in facilities that would be able to house and service more, should there be an increase in COVID-19 positive cases on island, or PUIs, with the 100% testing to be put into place.

These include the 50-bed federal medical station being set up at the Commonwealth Health Center, and improvements at Kanoa Resort, the primary alternate care site on the island.



An Asia Pacific Airline plane lands at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday from Honolulu, Hawaii, bringing with it more personal protective equipment provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The plane went on to bring similar cargo for Guam.

KRIZEL TUAZON

NMC awarded \$1.8M from CARES Act

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College got confirmation on April 11 from the U.S. Department of Education that the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security Act will provide approximately \$1.8 million in grant funding to the college. The funds will be provided in two phases.

In an email to all NMC students last April 12, NMC in-

terim president Frankie Eliptico said that, of that amount, \$920,000 will be reserved for NMC students whose education has been affected by the coronavirus outbreak. The college is working at this time on the allocation per student. The remaining portion of the grant will be provided by U.S. Department of Education at a later date when additional guidance and requirements are also given.

“Our college community is thankful for the assistance

as the funds will be able to provide NMC students with some financial relief as they continue to face challenges in their pursuit of their college degrees,” said Eliptico.

He added that the grant will provide guidelines that will show students how they will be able to use the funds to cover eligible expenses that includes course materials, technology, housing, food, health care, and child care. Eliptico stated that the college is working to have the students access the funds

as soon as possible.

“These are unprecedented and challenging times for your students and you,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in a letter addressed to college and university presidents across the United States. “I know you find yourselves grappling with issues you never imagined, and I want to assure you we are here to support you in your missions to quickly provide the resources and flexibility you need to continue educating your students.”

DeVos stated that the department will be working

expeditiously to set aside the remaining funding that will be reserved for institutional use and will provide additional information on how institutions can apply for the funding, as well as other emergency funding.

It is advised that NMC students should closely monitor their student email for announcements and guidance that will be provided over the next few days.

“Continue to be safe, Proas. Your efforts in physical distancing and isolating will contribute greatly to slowing COVID-19,” said Eliptico.

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RFP20-CHCC/FACILITIES-003

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***MANDATORY ASSESSMENT ON APRIL 14, 2020**
@ 9:00 A.M. SAIPAN TIME @ THE CHCC FACILITY/MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
ITB20-CHCC/CGC-DCMP-002

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 28, 2020 TIME: 10:00AM

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
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P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 *et seq*), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board meeting on Friday, April 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held via telephone conference at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

- Preliminary Matters
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Reading of the Notice of the Agenda
 - Adoption of Agenda
- Old Business
 - Telesource Contract
- New Business
 - Proposed FY 2021 Operations and Personnel Budget
 - Impact of COVID-19 on CUC Operations
 - Ongoing Cost Cutting Measures
 - Preparedness
 - Reduction-in Force/Austerity
 - Procurement Matters (Contracts and RFPs)
 - Stipulated Orders 1 and 2
- Public Comments*
- Executive Session**
(Consultation with Legal Counsel on Personnel Matters, Contracts, and Board Communications)
- Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.
** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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PSS to launch WiFi on Wheels

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System is currently working on launching WiFi on Wheels, or WOW, to help students and families who have no access to the internet at home and need it to work on their learning packets.

According to Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, the WOW program will be launching soon. “We are excited [to start] WiFi on Wheels. The idea is to have remote access internet in the bus near the bus stations and park there for the day so parents and families can drive close to the WiFi area and do their online learning and work,” he said.

Ada said this is specifically for

students and their families who are in dire need of an internet signal to help them with the packets that were recently distributed to students for their online classes.

The learning packets—called enhancement packets—are supposed to supplement the online classes of PSS students, soon after PSS cancelled on-campus learning for the rest of the school year as a precautionary measure against the coronavirus. PSS distributed the packets starting April 13. Secondary education already received theirs. Middle school and high schools are still working on distributing the materials.

In related news, Ada said that, although PSS will re-open classes next school year, once the CNMI is

cleared of COVID-19, instructional hours may be cut short.

Ada explained that he was recently informed that PSS would only be allocated around \$19 million in the next fiscal year budget. PSS was allocated \$37 million last fiscal year and even then, they were still on austerity.

“Once we figure it out the actual

budget appropriated for next school year, we will plan accordingly. From what I understand, we might just be getting between \$19 million and \$21 million for next school year so I am trying to figure out how to operate with that amount of money. Schools will be open, free public education will be available, but not necessarily

like the whole six hours of instruction. We might have to change some of our policies due to the situation,” he said.

Ada said it would take roughly \$40 million to operate and pay teachers their salaries. “If we have \$40 million, that’s how much it would cost to run PSS,” he said.

TEST KITS

From Page 1

inexpensive technique that amplifies small segments of DNA, so they can be used to detect viruses such as COVID-19 in a shorter time.

According to an Office of the Governor statement, the CNMI will get an additional 40,000 test kits within this week.

That means that the CNMI will obtain a total of 60,000 test kits and will soon be able to test individuals for COVID-19, based on the testing strategy guidelines from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Torres indicated that CHCC will be working on getting the test kits ready to begin testing by the end of this week or early next week.

“Our goal since Day 1 is to test everybody. It will take some time, but we’re definitely moving in that direction,” said Torres. “We have been working on getting the test kits here for the last three weeks, and we are glad to have received the first 20,000 here on Saipan.”

According to the statement, the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force coordinated the delivery via direct charter flight from South Korea to Saipan.

Along with the test kits, a clinical pathologist, a doctor who explains and diagnoses the changes caused by disease in the body’s cells and tissues, from South Korea have also arrived on island to carry out equipment regulation and test quality assurance and quality control of the test kits.

“I want to thank our CHCC CEO Esther Muña for her leadership, as well as our Task Force chair Warren Villagomez, our governor’s authorized representative Patrick Guerrero, Senate President Victor B. Hocog, House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao, and the Legislature’s leadership for assisting us in getting this done,” Torres added.

According to the press statement, CHCC, along with the COVID-19 Task Force, have been working diligently towards a laboratory strategy since the Pacific has seen the increase in COVID-19 cases, one that will not only provide on-island testing, but also ensure that testings are done by the Commonwealth Health Center’s laboratory staff.

NMC

From Page 1

mation to ensure that eligible students receive the funds as soon as possible.

“We would like to provide funds in the soonest possible time and in the safest manner given the social distance requirements that are in place throughout the CNMI,” the email stated.

NMC received confirmation on April 11 from the U.S. Department of Education that a provision in the CARES Act would provide approxi-

“I would like the public to know that there are several testing methodologies: point of care and laboratory-based testing,” said Muña.

According to the statement, Torres and the CNMI leadership saw how South Korea managed to lower its number of new cases due to early testing efforts in order to “flatten the curve.” Torres then moved forward to order the test kits for the CNMI three weeks ago.

Since the governor’s public health emergency declaration, CHCC has been developing its testing operations to include the following laboratory-based testing platforms that includes GeneXpert, BioFire, ABI 7500 Fast Dx, Abbott ID Now, and DiaPlexQ (PCR).

“These options are available now as a result of significant technological advances in laboratory science over the last three decades, resulting in small populations being able to benefit from highly complex testing,” said Muña.

This was not the case years ago, when jurisdictions like the CNMI, with only a population of 55,000, needed to send specimens off-island to Honolulu, Hawaii, or San Francisco, California, where larger populations allowed for efficient use of large and complex testing machines.

Testing strategy

CHCC and the COVID-19 Task Force are working to implement testing based on the HHS strategy, which involves three tiers of priorities.

Priority 1 are hospitalized patients and healthcare facility workers with symptoms. Priority 2 are patients in long-term care facilities with symptoms; patients 65 years of age or older with symptoms; patients with underlying conditions with symptoms; and first responders with symptoms. Priority 3 will be critical infrastructure workers with symptoms; individuals who don’t meet any of the above categories with symptoms; health care facility workers and first responders; and individuals with mild symptoms in communities experiencing high numbers of COVID-19 hospitalizations

Torres stated that the overall prioritization of testing will be determined by CHCC’s medical doctors, but the main priority will be given to hospitalized patients, persons under investigation,

mately \$1.8 million to the college.

In an email from interim president Frankie Eliptico to all NMC students on April 12, out of the \$1.8 million that NMC received, \$920,000 is reserved for NMC students whose lives were severely impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

The college is currently working on the allocations for the students and the remaining portion of the grant will be provided by U.S. Department of Education at a later date after the issuance of additional guidance.

Eliptico said in his email that the

health care workers, *man’amko*, and front-line first responders.

“To the great people of the Commonwealth, I want to thank you all for your patience, and we are working extremely hard to get as many people tested as possible,” said Torres.

COVID-19 in Guam

The U.S. Navy announced last April 13 that a sailor who was on the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* died last April 13 due to the coronavirus.

According to the *Pacific Daily News*, the sailor, whose name was not released pending notification of family, tested positive for COVID-19 last March 30. He was found unresponsive in his room on April 9 and was then moved to the intensive care unit at the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, where the aircraft carrier was docked.

He was the first active-duty service member to die of the disease.

“The entire department is deeply saddened by the loss of our first active duty member to COVID-19,” Defense Secretary Mark Esper said in a statement. “Our thoughts are with the family of the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* sailor who lost his battle with the virus today. We remain committed to protecting our personnel and their families while continuing to assist in defeating this outbreak.”

“This is a great loss for the ship and for our Navy,” Adm. Mike Gilday, the chief of Naval Operations, said in a statement. “My deepest sympathy goes out the family, and we pledge our full support to the ship and crew as they continue their fight against the coronavirus. While our ships, submarines and aircraft are made of steel, sailors are the real strength of our Navy.”

“On behalf of Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, my husband Jeff, and our families, we offer our deepest condolences to this sailor and his family,” said Guam’s Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. “We live in uncertain times but Guam understands that every bit of freedom we enjoy is paid for by the men and women of the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* and others like them.

“While we mourn for everyone we have lost in this fight, we promise their absence will not be vain. We wish him peace, eternal rest, and the knowledge that his loss touched thousands of people he has never met,” added Leon Guerrero.

grant’s guidelines indicate that the funding should be used to shoulder school-related expenses that include course materials, technology, housing, food, health care, and child care.

U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos stated in a letter to NMC that the department will be working expeditiously to set aside the remainder of the \$1.8 million that is reserved for institutional use.

The department has yet to provide additional information on how institutions can apply for the funding, as well as other emergency funding.

TORRES

From Page 1

the Attorney General are defending Torres and Atalig in this case. Assistant attorney general John P. Lowrey filed Torres’ and Atalig’s answer; assistant attorneys general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. and Precious S. Boone entered their appearance as counsel for the governor and Finance secretary.

In Torres and Atalig’s defenses, Lowrey said the governor’s actions are licensed by the declaration of a state of emergency pursuant to the CNMI Constitution, the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Act, and the CNMI Emergency Health Powers Act of 2003.

Lowrey said the changes Torres made on the budget are required by law and that plaintiffs’ request would require the governor to violate the law and is thus illegal. Also, in so far as the plaintiffs want the amend the budget, they should also have included the Legislature in the lawsuit since it has the power over the government’s purse, Lowrey said.

As for asking the court to order Torres and Atalig to pay PSS an amount beyond what is set in the budget set by the Legislature, that would violate the law and would be illegal, he added.

At the same time, Lowrey said, the complaint is barred because the issues it is based on—or a necessary portion of them—are moot as a result of the current state of emergency and school closures.

Also, PSS’ claim of not having received 25% of the 2020 fiscal year budget is not ripe, Lowrey said, due to the monthly payment of appropriations under Public Law 21-08.

He said the complaint has failed to allege facts sufficient to constitute a constitutional violation by the Commonwealth.

He said the Commonwealth denies

that Torres’ current proposed budget revision will reduce PSS’ allotment by 28.3%, that the governor’s emergency budget reductions improperly calculated PSS’ budget, and that PSS’ proportional share of Public Law 21-08 was 16%. He pointed out that PSS received 25.3% of the “total local revenue and resources available for appropriation for Commonwealth government activities in fiscal year 2020.”

Lowrey said the Commonwealth admits that PSS is guaranteed an annual budget of not less than 25% of the general revenues of the Commonwealth through an annual appropriation.

“The Commonwealth denies any allegations or implication that PSS has not received its guaranteed budgetary appropriation,” he added.

At this time, the Superior Court has not granted a temporary restraining injunction order in this case.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set a status conference for June 23, 2020, during which briefing deadlines and hearing dates will be discussed.

PSS and Ada are suing Torres and Atalig to guarantee for PSS an annual budget of not less than 25% of the Commonwealth’s general revenue.

Ada and PSS, through counsel Tiberius Mocanu, are suing Torres and Atalig for violation of the CNMI Constitution.

Mocanu said Public Law 21-08, which established the Commonwealth government budget for fiscal year 2020, appropriated \$37,718,904 to PSS, which is approximately 16% of the budget. He said Torres is in violation of the CNMI Constitution because he is carrying out payments and collections under P.L. 21-08.

Mocanu said Atalig is in violation of the NMI Constitution because every allotment and disbursement made pursuant to P.L. 21-08 is unconstitutional.

PSS and Ada asked the court to declare P.L. 21-08 as modified by Torres unconstitutional.

COVID-19

From Page 1

linked cases. CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts (close family members, friends, and associates) of these confirmed cases. To ensure community transmission is limited, CHCC will expand contact tracing efforts. CHCC continues to work with the

Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force to expand designated isolation areas to closely monitor the well-being of individuals with symptoms.

As of April 14, 2020, the CNMI has submitted 59 specimens for COVID-19 testing. Of these 59 specimens, 55 have been processed, resulting in 13 positive specimens, 42 negative specimens, and two deaths. CHCC awaits the results of four specimens. (PR)

Kilili: \$36M now available to the CNMI government

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A total of \$36 million-plus is now available to the Commonwealth, as the government's share of the Coronavirus Relief Fund that Congress appropriated last month in the CARES Act.

A special \$3 billion set-aside for the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia was distributed by population with each territory receiving \$702 per capita. States received an average of \$424 per capita.

"Congress gave the U.S. Treasury 30 days to get this money out to state and territorial governments," said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP). "And [yesterday] Treasury launched a new web portal where each eligible government can register to get the money sent electronically to its designated bank account. I understand that transfer takes about 24 hours."

The CNMI has been allocated \$36,284,217.70. Treasury will release about half of the money immediately and the rest by April 24 to meet the

deadline set by Congress in the CARES Act, Public Law 116-136.

Treasury has also set its own deadline for state and territorial governments to register for the Coronavirus Relief Fund grants. To ensure it can make payments within the 30-day period specified by the CARES Act, the department is requiring that those governments register and submit supporting documents by 11:59 EDT, April 17, or risk losing the money.

"It is also important to note that this is not a slush fund for state and territorial governments," Sablan said. "The money has to be used for coronavirus-related expenses that occurred after March 1 and that were unbudgeted."

"Congress intends that this money is used to keep people healthy and safe from the disease and help medical workers at the front line," he added.

Sablan has been at work in Washington since early March to be on hand for negotiations on legislation addressing the coronavirus crisis and ensure

the Marianas participates fully in the massive relief packages that Congress is passing. Direct aid to territorial governments was one of the four key

priorities he identified for the CARES Act. He was also able to make those priorities the bipartisan consensus among all the island delegates.

Sablan said that Democrats have already put forward a new proposal to double the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund and allow state and

territorial governments to use the money to replace lost revenues. But Senate Republicans blocked that additional aid on Thursday. (PR)

USCIS announces delay in data entry, receipt notice generation for FY '21

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said yesterday that petitioners should expect a delay in data entry and receipt notice generation for fiscal year 2021 H-1B cap-subject petitions until at least May 1, 2020, due to the impacts of the coronavirus.

Beginning with the first day of filing, April 1, 2020, we will not immediately enter data for fiscal year 2021 cap-subject petitions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and required health and safety protocols. Data entry and notice generation will be delayed until at least May 1, 2020.

Once USCIS begins data

entry, we will complete intake processing in the order in which we received petitions at the service centers. Petitions will be stamped received on the date they arrive at the service center. Petitions, if otherwise properly filed, will retain the receipt date that corresponds with the date the petition is received at the service center.

Due to delayed data entry and notice generation, there will be a general delay in processing fiscal year 2021 cap-subject petitions. We are mindful of petitions with sensitive expiration and start dates, such as cap-gap

petitions, and will strive to process these petitions as efficiently as possible.

The specified filing window on the registration selection notices will not be changed. A petitioner who has a valid selected registration notice must file their H-1B cap-subject petition for the beneficiary named in the selected registration notice during the filing window indicated in their selection notice, or USCIS will reject or deny the petition.

We ask petitioners to wait to inquire about the status of their cap-subject petitions until they receive a receipt notice.

Additionally, we may transfer some Form I-129 H-1B cap-subject petitions for adjudication between the Vermont Service Center, California Service Center, Nebraska Service Center and Texas Service Center to balance the workload and enhance efficiencies. However, petitioners should still file their FY 2021 H-1B cap-subject petitions at the service center named in their selection notice. If we transfer your case, you will receive notification in the mail. After receiving the notification, please send all future correspondence to the center processing your petition. (PR)

Interior invites territories and Freely Associated States to submit requests

U.S. TERRITORIES

Guam	\$12,039,565
USVI	\$7,863,776
A. Samoa	\$4,079,020
CNMI	\$4,042,585

FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES

FSM	\$7,737,390
RMI	\$3,894,720
Palau	\$1,592,945

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior has formally invited the governors of the territories and presidents of Freely Associated States to submit requests for funding made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security, or CARES, Act.

The \$55 million in emergency relief funding is available to the territories and the FAS to prepare, prevent, and respond to the coronavirus disease, COVID-19, pandemic.

The island jurisdictions eligible for this funding are: American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

"These funds will provide critical support for families in the territories and the Freely Associated States," said Douglas W. Domenech, assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs. "As the President continues to say, together we will overcome this crisis and emerge stronger than before."

"We are pleased that the CARES Act includes this important support for the territories and the Freely Associated States," said Domenech. "I have invited the insular area

governors and the presidents to submit grant applications for this expedited funding immediately."

"As President Trump said during his historic meeting with the presidents of the Freely Associated States, the United States has a unique, historic, and special relationship with each of these countries," said Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Sandra Oudkirk. "We are committed and proud to support these close partners in meeting the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic."

The CARES Act funds for the territories and the FAS will be managed through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Program. Funding is allocated based upon population by insular area. A reserve of \$13.75 million has been set aside as a contingency in case of any unforeseen emergencies.

Guidelines and instructions on applying for these funds have been sent to the governors of each territory and to each FAS president. For general guidelines on how to apply for OIA TAP funding, visit the OIA website at <https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance>. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tinian ID card service on Wed., Thurs.

The Tinian Mayor's Office will be offering its municipal identification card services to the public every Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm until such time that the government resumes its normal operating hours. We highly encourage the use of

face masks, and the practice of social distancing while availing of this service.

For more information, contact the Tinian Mayor's Office at (670) 433-1800 or email ring10@gmail.com. (PR)

NMTI board meeting set

The Northern Marianas Tech-

nical Institute has a scheduled board meeting on Friday, April 17, 2020, starting at 9:30am. (PR)

MLSC available by phone

The Marianas office of the Micronesia Legal Services Corp. continues to be closed to public contact during this

time of COVID-19 pandemic prevention efforts. We are available by telephone at 234-7729 or 234-6243. We are a private-non-profit organization serving low-income people in the CNMI; we do not charge fees for our legal services. People may apply for assistance through our telephone intake process. (PR)



SHOW OF APPRECIATION

McDonald's Saipan and McDonald's Guam recently donated food and coffee to first responders and front-liners in both Guam and Saipan. In main photo, McDonald's Saipan owner/operator Marcia Ayuyu, third from left, and the crew of McDonald's Middle Road branch hold up the food and drinks they donated to the Commonwealth Health Center. Inset shows CHC staff show the donated food.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Free small business webinars

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars for April 2020. Webinars run from 10am to 11am and will be conducted via Zoom. A link to the live webinar will be emailed to all registered attendees 30 minutes before the start of the webinar. A survey link will be emailed to attendees after the completion of the webinar.

■ **April 16: How to Get HUBZone Certified** – All of Guam and the CNMI are HUBZones. The Guam PTAC will take you through the process and address

follow up requirements from SBA regarding HUBZone certification.

■ **April 23: How to Get 8(a) Certified** – The SBA's 8(a) program was created to help small, disadvantaged businesses compete in federal contracting. The Guam PTAC will help you navigate the forms and requirements of the 8a program.

■ **April 30: How to Get Women-Owned Small Business Certified** – WOSB is currently, a self-certification with very unique rules. We will

discuss the certification process, supporting document requirements, and upcoming changes to the program.

■ **May 7: All Small Mentor-Protégé Program** – The SBA's All Small Business Mentor-Protégé Program is modeled after the 8(a) Mentor-Protégé Program. The Guam PTAC will update you on the eligibility requirements and how to apply.

Register on the PTAC website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

Things to Know



As of April 14, 2020. All information may change without prior notice. For corrections and additions to this list, send an email to editor@saipantribune.com or chevy_alipio@saipantribune.com, or call 235-6397 or 235-2440.

Paycheck Protection Program FAQs

The Small Business Administration, in consultation with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, has issued frequently-asked-questions regarding implementation of the Paycheck Protection Program, established by section 1102 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. Some of those FAQs involve explaining the requirements under the Bank Secrecy Act, and how lenders can meet those requirements when issuing a PPP loan. As the administrator of the BSA, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network is re-publishing those FAQs. FinCEN will update this document with any additional BSA-related FAQs involving the PPP. Read the FAQs at <https://www.fincen.gov/news/news-releases/paycheck-protection-program-frequently-asked-questions>.

DCRM UPDATES

■ The Division of Coastal Resources Management provides an update on several programs and plans. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

USDA RESOURCES

■ The U.S. Department of Agriculture implements immediate measures to help rural residents, businesses and communities affected by COVID-19. Read about it at https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_RD_SA_COVID19_ProgramImmediateActions04082020.pdf.

■ The U.S. Department of Agriculture expands provisions for lenders to offer temporary exceptions to payment deferrals for agency guaranteed loan programs. See full details at https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_RD_SA_COVID19_Guarantee_Loan_DeferralPayments04082020.pdf.

WHO UPDATE

■ Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

BANK HOURS

■ Bank of Hawaii: Monday to Friday - 9am to 1pm (Saturdays closed)

■ Bank of Guam Chalan Kanoa: Closed temporarily

■ Bank of Guam Garapan: Monday to Friday - 9am-1pm; Saturday closed

■ First Hawaiian Bank Oleai: Monday to Friday - 9am-1pm; Saturday closed

■ First Hawaiian Bank Gualo Rai: Monday to Friday - 9am-1pm; Saturday closed

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

■ USPS Chalan Kanoa: Monday to Friday - 8:30am-4pm; Sat 9am-12pm

■ USPS San Vicente: Monday to Friday - 12pm-5:30pm;

Sat 12pm-3pm

SUPERMARKETS

For a list of the status of open and closed stores and those with limited hours, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

RESTAURANTS

For a list of the status of open and closed restaurants and those with limited hours, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

OTHER BUSINESSES:

For a list of their business operations status, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

MEDICAL SERVICES

For a list of the status of open and closed medical services and those with limited hours, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

HOTELS

For a partial list of the status of open and closed hotels and those with limited hours, see link at www.saipantribune.com.

ONLINE RESOURCES

■ Demystifying the CARES ACT: A primer for businesses. Plus Saipan Chamber of Commerce updates. See <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/De-mystifying-the-CARES-ACT-and-Local-Updates.html?soid=1129193858340&aid=0EXsNhZzzis>

■ For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>.

■ Commonwealth Health Care Corp. services. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Frequently-asked-questions about direct assistance under CARES Act. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Needing mental health tips? See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Announcement about re-opening of boat ramps and docks. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Announcement about re-opening of public beaches and pathways. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

■ Avoid COVID-19 scams: Attorney General Edward Manibusan issues alert of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) scams. See link at www.saipantribune.com.

Settlement Fund office hours

The Settlement Fund office has reduced its service hours to half day. We are still restricting access to the public and will continue to receive and respond to inquiries by phone, fax and email *only* from 8am to 1pm, Monday – Friday. Fund staff will be available to assist members only by telephone, fax, or email. Contact Information for the Settlement Fund: tel: (670) 322-3863; fax: (670) 664-8080; email: info@nmisf.com. (PR)

Source: Compiled by Saipan Tribune/Chevy Alipio

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 15, 1999

CUC, CPA make deal

The ports authority and the utilities corporation yesterday agreed to share the cost of settling a contractor's claim for a half-completed sewer line, ending months of squabble between the agencies that has delayed the completion of the critical project. "The issue has been resolved," Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio told in an interview after the meeting. "They're going to start the project right away." According to the governor, a new Memorandum of Agreement was forged between the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation which spells out the terms of the cost-sharing of \$750,000 in unpaid fees to the Pacific Drilling Ltd.

CNMI tormentor gets own torment

The New York-based law firm that lodged a \$1 billion class-action lawsuit against the CNMI garment industry has found itself in deep financial trouble. In a space of two days, the law firm Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes and Lerach, known for filing shareholder class-action suits in which investors go against corporate management with big money at stake, was \$95 million deep in court-mandated obligations. The amount represents a \$50 million in settlement and \$45 million in compensatory damages — both won by the dean of the University of Chicago's law school and his partners who sued the law firm for damages for including them in a racketeering case.

April 15, 2005

Fire ravages shops, apartments

Firefighters responded to a blaze that raged through a Chalan Piao shopping and housing area located next to the MGM garment factory on Beach Road, Thursday night, forcing DPS traffic officers to close off almost a half-mile stretch of road between the Mobil station and the Royal Crown Insurance while Fire officers battled flames and thick smoke. According to witnesses, there was an explosion in the same apartment where a woman was recently killed, and the fire spread rapidly from the back of the complex toward the store front, spewing a cloud of thick black smoke into the air. Workers from the MGM garment factory wishing to remain anonymous said that they heard a loud booming sound moments before smoke and flames billowed from the adjacent complex.

Arts fest a crossroad of cultures

A long stretch of Beach Road from the Chamolinian Cultural Village all the way to American Memorial Park was closed to traffic from most of the late afternoon yesterday to give way to the "Parade of Cultures" that kicked off this year's Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival. Delegates from Saipan Hawaiian Community, Japanese Society of Northern Marianas, Indian Community, United Filipino Organization, Thai Community, Chamolinian Cultural Village, Repaghulwosch Society of Saipan, and the Chinese Association of Saipan paraded in their respective national costumes.

April 15, 2006

Tinian ILS not approved by FAA

The instrument landing system that the Tinian local government has proposed for its airport was essentially rejected by the Federal Aviation Administration, said Commonwealth Ports Authority consultant Carlos H. Salas. Salas said the ILS that is being sold to Tinian by its contact company "is not the system that FAA currently supports." "Tinian airport has to get the equipment that FAA supports. [CPA] is going to pursue the one that FAA is supporting because when it's done, FAA will be maintaining it," said Salas in an interview last week.

'Salary cut to worsen economic condition'

The local economy's current situation would worsen if the CNMI government pursues its plan to cut its employees' salaries by 10 percent, warns Commonwealth Development Authority board chair Tom Glenn A. Quitugua. "It's a horrible proposal. You're crippling the purchasing power of your people. Can you imagine the plight of employees earning \$10,000 a year?" asked Quitugua. He said that if the local population's purchasing power is diminished, it would result in economic stagnation, worsening the financial crisis that the government is already in. "If there's less money circulating, guess what impact it has on the businesses. Guess what it will do to the economy," said Quitugua.

Navy reports first coronavirus death from *Roosevelt* crew

By **ROBERT BURNS**
AP NATIONAL SECURITY WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—A member of the crew of the coronavirus-infected USS *Theodore Roosevelt* died Monday of complications related to the disease, 11 days after the aircraft carrier's captain was fired for pressing his concern that the Navy had done too little to safeguard his crew. The sailor was the first active-duty military member to die of COVID-19.

The Navy also announced that an aircraft carrier strike group led by the USS *Harry S. Truman*, which had been heading home to Norfolk, Virginia from a monthslong deployment in the Middle East, will instead be kept in the Atlantic for now as a way to protect the ship's crew from coronavirus.

"The Navy is taking this measure to maintain the strike group's warfighting capability while ensuring the safety of the crew," the Navy said in a statement. There are no known coronavirus cases aboard the *Truman* or the other ships in

its strike group.

The Navy said it will evaluate "this dynamic situation" and will provide an update to the crew of the *Truman* and their families in approximately three weeks.

The *Roosevelt* sailor who died, whose name and other identifying information were not publicly released pending notification of relatives, had tested positive for coronavirus on March 30 and was taken off the ship and placed in "isolation housing" along with four other sailors at the U.S. Navy base in Guam. On April 9, he was found unresponsive during a medical check and was moved to a local hospital's intensive care unit.

Over the weekend, four additional *Roosevelt* crew members were admitted to the hospital for monitoring of coronavirus symptoms, the Navy said. All are in stable condition and none are in intensive care or on ventilators.

The death Monday was the first among the crew of approximately 4,860, of which 585 had tested positive for

coronavirus as of Monday. A little over 4,000 crew members have been moved ashore. A number have been kept aboard to attend to the enormous ship's nuclear reactors and other sensitive systems.

The Navy's top officer issued a statement of condolence.

"My deepest sympathy goes out to the family, and we pledge our full support to the ship and crew as they continue their fight against the coronavirus," Adm. Mike Gilday, the chief of naval operations, said. "While our ships, submarines and aircraft are made of steel, sailors are the real strength of our Navy."

Defense Secretary Mark Esper noted that the *Roosevelt* sailor was the first active-duty military member to die of coronavirus. One member of the New Jersey National Guard died of the virus in late March.

"We remain committed to protecting our personnel and their families while continuing to assist in defeating this outbreak," Esper said in a statement.

The *Roosevelt* has been

in a coronavirus crisis that prompted the Navy's civilian leader, Thomas Modly, to fire the ship's captain on April 2. Five days later, after having flown to the ship and delivered a speech in which he insulted the skipper, Capt. Brett E. Crozier, and criticized the crew for supporting Crozier, Modly resigned.

Modly said he felt compelled to remove Crozier from command because he had distributed too widely via email a letter in which he called for more urgent Navy action to prevent a deeper coronavirus crisis aboard his ship. Crozier's words angered Modly but were seen by others as necessary.

"We are not at war. Sailors do not need to die. If we do not act now, we are failing to properly take care of our most trusted asset —our sailors," Crozier wrote March 31. The letter appeared a short time later in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and other news media. Modly said the letter was inappropriate and that Crozier had failed to consult sufficiently with his immediate

superior before writing it.

President Donald Trump initially criticized Crozier for writing the letter but later said he didn't want Crozier's career ruined over a single mistake.

Navy officials have not ruled out the possibility of Crozier being reinstated.

Adm. Robert Burke, the Navy's second-ranking admiral, conducted a preliminary inquiry into the *Roosevelt*'s coronavirus outbreak and related events. Cmdr. Nate Christensen said Monday that Gilday has received and is reviewing Burke's inquiry report. Christensen, spokesman for Gilday, said it would "take time" for the admiral to review and endorse the report.

Pentagon leaders anticipate that the coronavirus may strike more Navy ships at sea.

Last Thursday, Air Force Gen. John Hyten, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, noted that ships with large numbers of sailors aboard operating in close quarters are vulnerable to an outbreak, although the *Roosevelt* is the only one

so far to have reported coronavirus cases while deployed at sea.

"It's not a good idea to think that the *Teddy Roosevelt* is a one-of-a-kind issue," Hyten told a Pentagon news conference. "We have too many ships at sea. ... To think that it will never happen again is not a good way to plan."

Gilday, meanwhile, said last week that the biggest problem is the inability to test enough people quickly, including those aboard the USS *Nimitz*, the next U.S.-based aircraft carrier due to deploy out to sea.

"The challenge that we have now, is having that type of capability where we can test in volume and at speed," Gilday said Thursday. "I really don't have a good estimate right now on when that testing capability might be available in the kinds of quantities we would like to see."

He said sailors on the USS *Nimitz*, which is in port preparing for a deployment, will have all movement restricted for two weeks before the ship leaves.

By **DINO W. BUCHANAN**
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
HONOLULU DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii—In response to the spread of coronavirus in Guam, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District and Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas have combined efforts to perform seven initial planning and site assessments in Guam for potential conversion into alternate care facilities.

USACE is conducting technical planning and site assessments at Guam locations on mission assignment through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services, and the government of Guam.

Stringent COVID-19 restrictions prevent USACE personnel travel throughout the Pacific region, so the Honolulu District requested direct assistance from NAVFAC Pacific and NAVFAC Marianas to provide engineering personnel support to accomplish the FEMA site assessment mission for Guam.

"This is the power of partnership at its finest. We are pleased to join forces with NAVFAC Pacific as we expedite the FEMA-directed assessments for the Guam government," said Lt. Col. Kathryn Sanborn, Honolulu District commander. "When USACE got the call to provide assistance quickly, NAVFAC stepped up to support us in the COVID-19 mission fight

Seven Guam sites assessed as alternate care facilities

without a moment's delay. This was the first time USACE has partnered to conduct such a joint mission. The need for time-critical assessments for the government of Guam made this partnership more crucial to the mission. NAVFAC Marianas' assistance in getting the mission completed has been invaluable."

The site assessment mission partnership is unique as the Army and Navy each conduct specific, yet different engineering services for Guam. The U.S. Navy and NAVFAC Marianas provide nearly all routine military engineering and construction services for Guam, while USACE provides regulatory and civil works services, supports FEMA mission assignments for disaster response, and provides interagency and international services.

"This effort is a fantastic display of 'can-do' engineering support through a joint service partnership to support the people of Guam," said NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer Capt. Daniel Turner. "We are pleased to be a part of this great example of teams bonding together to accomplish an important mission."

"We are proud to partner with NAVFAC in the Pacific to support the people of Guam," said USACE Pacific Ocean Division commander Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner. "This joint effort highlights how agencies at all levels of government are teaming up



NAVFAC MARIANAS

Engineering assessment teams from Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas and the Guam Air National Guard conduct a walkthrough of a hotel in Tumon as part of the Hotel to Healthcare conversion program in support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and in coordination with the government of Guam. Engineering teams began their initial facilities assessments on March 31, 2020 and are working in partnership with both private and government sectors to evaluate various hotels and government buildings for its potential to be utilized as alternate healthcare facilities in response to COVID-19.

to execute quickly and put lives first. We stand ready to increase existing health care capacity by constructing these scalable and flexible alternate care facilities. Our teams will answer the call to protect the people of Guam, the nation and its allies."

Utilizing assessment criteria guidance provided by Jeff

Herzog, Honolulu District site assessment team leader, NAVFAC Marianas personnel conducted seven facility assessments and transmitted the data to Honolulu District for review and eventual submission to FEMA and the government of Guam.

"NAVFAC's engineering personnel team did an out-

standing job conducting and submitting complete and detailed assessments," said Herzog. "The Guam government is eager to see the assessments as it provides data for them to make informed decisions on the potential construction of alternate care facilities."

To transition from site assessments into constructing

ACFs, USACE needs a directive from FEMA, in coordination with the government of Guam. Guam would work to lease the selected properties, if not already owned by them, and coordinate with partnering agencies to staff and supply the facilities. How much transformative construction is conducted at a potential alternate care facility location depends on site size and compatibility. Another factor is whether Guam plans to utilize the site for non-COVID-19 or COVID-19 patients.

An alternate care facility is a facility that's temporarily converted for healthcare use during a public health emergency to reduce the burden on hospitals and established medical facilities.

About USACE

USACE is working with the White House, Department of Defense, FEMA, and other federal, state and local partners in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The FEMA mission assignments provide support nationwide to address possible medical facility shortages.

Overall, USACE has received 53 FEMA mission assignments totaling approximately \$1.7 billion and has more than 15,000 personnel engaged in the response effort and providing support. Information pertaining to specifications and implementation of the alternate care sites is available on the web at <https://www.usace.army.mil/Coronavirus/Alternate-Care-Sites/>. **(PR)**

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Are trillions of dollars in stimulus spending getting enough scrutiny?

During the last serious economic downturn in 2008 and 2009, Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama pushed forward more than \$1 trillion in spending designed to revive the economy by doing everything from buying up toxic assets from financial institutions and spending more on public infrastructure to bailing out state and local governments. Much of it was controversial. Many political conservatives complained bitterly about this level of federal government involvement in the private sector, and there continues to be debate about how many jobs that effort saved (although the general consensus remains that American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 likely saved 1.5 million jobs or more).

But the one thing those programs had was some degree of independent oversight. Whether one approved of the Troubled Asset Relief Program or not, those banks and other financial institutions that benefited from taxpayer-funded bailouts were identified for all to see. Not only was some level of transparency mandated under TARP, but there was a well-funded watchdog, a "special" inspector general assigned to monitoring the asset transfers and who reported directly to Congress. More than once, that particular individual, former prosecutor Neil Barofsky, produced reports critical of the Obama administration's handling of the program it had inherited. President Barack Obama did not fire Barofsky. Nor did Congress. His involvement helped Americans have confidence in the fairness and legality of the government's actions.

That experience ought to inform how the United States moves forward now, but there are worrisome signs it isn't. The \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act does not require disclosure of the names of businesses that receive Small Business Administration loans, a program that has already received about a half-million applications. Other CARES programs do require such disclosures, but the names can be withheld if the Federal Reserve chairman deems it appropriate. And while the CARES Act does include an inspector general and a committee of Congress conducting oversight (although less well-funded than under TARP), the Trump administration has already attacked that provision. Administration officials now insist that any reports to Congress would have to be first scrutinized by the White House and a key candidate for the watchdog role was demoted by President Donald Trump who has, instead, nominated one of his own lawyers, associate White House counsel Brian Miller, for the post.

Such meddling leaves open the possibility that taxpayer money might be used for self-serving purposes, with the Trump administration potentially directing the enormous sums toward political allies and away from those the president perceives as foes. Certainly, Trump's dislike of independent oversight was illustrated by his decision earlier this month to fire Michael Atkinson, the intelligence community's top watchdog, because Atkinson did his job by informing Congress about the whistleblower report on Trump's infamous

See **SCRUTINY** on next page

Being honest with myself, and others, about how much the coronavirus crisis is scaring me

As a family therapist and a mother of five children, I am used to reassuring my children when they are faced with obstacles.

It will be OK, I tell them. It will pass. You will get through this.

And I have continued to say these words to them in the past weeks as we all adjusted to online school and work. But sometimes I wonder if I should be honest with them instead right now—should I tell them that I too am scared, that I too wonder constantly when will this all be over, that I too feel like this is the end of the world, and that every day I wake up and cannot believe this is happening?

I don't say any of that. But because we are all working from home, as I was writing these words, one of my sons was reading over my shoulder. At first, I was angry at him. It seemed like I had no space for myself anymore. The boundaries between work and school and home had all disappeared, and I had to wake up long before dawn to find time to quiet the chaos of my mind. But as I was about to tell him that it was rude to look at my computer while I was writing, my son asked me: "What are you scared of?"

And I realized that I should have been honest with my children long ago. I should have said: Sometimes it won't be OK. Sometimes we are faced with suffering in life that is so painful that it seems impossible to face. I am scared. I am scared that grandma and grandpa will get sick. I am scared that my husband will end up in the hospital all alone on a ventilator. I am scared that I will end up in the hospital all alone on a ventilator. I am scared every time I have to walk back into a grocery store and someone coughs beside me. I am scared that this will last for another year or more.

My son listens but does not flinch. Perhaps admitting my fear allows him to feel his own. Perhaps he knew I was scared before I had the courage to admit it. Perhaps he knows that we are all scared. We are all wondering when this will all end, and we are all now facing the possibility of death, which many of us have never faced before.

Facing the possibility of death is usually something reserved for the elderly among us. But now we are all forced to ask the bigger questions. Have I lived? Have I told the people I love how much they mean to me? Have I accomplished what I wanted to with my life? Have I forgiven and been forgiven? If

By DEBBIE GUTFREUND

The Hartford Courant

Debbie Gutfreund is a writer, runner and family therapist who lives with her children and husband in Waterbury, Conn.



I died today, would I be able to say goodbye without regrets?

I ponder these questions as I run outside each day, and I cry. I don't know the answers to any of these questions, and I am scared. So scared to lose those I love, to face the possible end of my life when I feel like I haven't even begun to live.

But sometimes when I look up and see the faces of those around me, I see the pain in my eyes reflected in theirs.

Even with 6 feet between us, I can see the older man walking with tears streaming down his face. I can see the stress of the young mother's face as she pushes a stroller toward me. As I inhale the fresh air deeply, I feel a mixture of gratitude and uncertainty. Today I can run. Today I can breathe. But what about tomorrow?

Sometimes when I run, I run just to see the faces of other people. I try to smile. They try to smile. But we know, on the deepest of levels, that we are all in this together. Suddenly it just doesn't matter who we vote for or how much money we have in the bank, whether we're young or old, lonely or connected. The lines that divide us disappear.

I am scared, my eyes say. And I am scared too, their eyes say back. I am lonely, but I am not alone. I am scared, but I am no longer scared to speak about it.

I don't know when this will end, but that is true for so much of life before and after this began. This too shall pass. That is true. But when will it pass? None of us knows.

But we are as inextricably connected to each other as we have always been. It's just that now all the boundaries between us have been torn down, even as we make sure to stay 6 feet away.

Yes, we will get through this. I don't know how. But I think it will be one run or walk at a time, one smile and tear at a time. Together we can meet each other's eyes, and know: Whenever and however this ends, we are all in this together.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Our lives depend on immigrants to get us through the coronavirus crisis

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to roar across the country, it's worth noting that at least one in six (some estimates put it as high as one in four) of our health care professionals were born in other countries, then moved to the U.S. to live, work and raise families.

You know—immigrants.

They play such a significant role in health care, especially in immigrant-heavy states such as California, New York and Texas, that it's hard to imagine what kind of shape the U.S. health care system would be in were it not for their work. Yet this is the very group of people whose ranks the Trump administration has been working so obsessively to keep from growing—whether they arrive legally or otherwise.

Using 2015 American Community Survey data, the Migration Policy Institute two years ago came up with the one-in-six proportion, but also noted that more than one-quarter of doctors and surgeons in the U.S. were immigrants, a share that varies widely by state.

In California, for instance, about one-third of doctors and surgeons are foreign-born. And about one-quarter of the nation's nursing, psychiatric and home health aides are immigrants. They mainly arrived from Asia.

Notably, about 203,000 immigrants with protections under the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program work in health care. The Trump administration has sought to kill

the deferrals and deport more than 800,000 people who have lived in the U.S. without permission after being brought here as children. The Supreme Court is expected to rule before its term ends in June on whether the program can continue.

But it's clear that without immigrants our health care system would be significantly compromised. There's nothing quite like a medical crisis to bring home how important and integral immigrants are to our daily lives.

Or to point out some of the weaknesses of national and state policies and programs.

Even before this pandemic, experts were warning of a looming shortage of health care professionals, driven in part by the aging of the baby boomer generation. As more members of that generation slide into retirement years, where demand for health care increases, so, too, do many baby boomer medical professionals.

The Association of American Medical Colleges reported last year that while the nation's population was expected to grow more than 10% by 2032, the number of people age 65 or older would increase 48%. About one-third of current doctors will be over 65 in the next decade, and many are retiring. Other reports show similar tensions in the supply of and demand for registered nurses.

Yet a pool of potential workers in those fields remains largely untapped: foreign-born and foreign-trained medical

By **SCOTT MARTELLE**

Los Angeles Times

Scott Martelle, a veteran journalist and author of six history books, is a member of the Los Angeles Times editorial board.



workers, who face hurdles obtaining visas and, once here, clearing state-level education and training standards before receiving licenses to practice (it's a complicated mess; here's some background). Not only could they be important to the future delivery of health care, but if we had a more reasonable approach now, we'd also have more medical experts available in the current crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic caught the government by surprise (it shouldn't have) but also exposed weaknesses in our social safety net, such as lack of paid sick time for low-wage workers and an unemployment system that could be reconfigured to keep workers attached to their jobs, allowing businesses to ramp back up more quickly as the economy recovers.

And the outbreak has spotlighted already-known problems with the delivery of health care. Moving forward, we need to find a way to better incorporate medical personnel trained overseas into the American system.

And we need an administration that understands and appreciates the importance of immigration to the nation's economic future, rather than one that sees immigrants as a threat.

Why hasn't Trump employed his powers during the coronavirus crisis?

If you're an aspiring dictator, this pandemic is a job opportunity. People are sick, dying, scared of getting sick and dying, and desperate not to be scared of being sick and dying. They want help. They want solutions. They want jobs. They want drugs. They want leaders with no pharmaceutical expertise to prescribe them drugs.

They are not interested in choices. They want to be told what to do.

James Madison warned that tyranny arises "on some favorable emergency." In wartime, American presidents have encroached on our liberties. Abraham Lincoln suspended habeas corpus, Woodrow Wilson jailed dissidents, Franklin Roosevelt interned Japanese Americans and George W. Bush instituted massive wiretapping. In 1972, Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos used a staged assassination attempt on his defense secretary to impose martial law and extend his rule for another 14 years. Using terrorism as a pretext, Russian leader Vladimir Putin seized control of private television in 2002 and abolished elected regional governors in 2004.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, national governments are seizing new powers. South Korea and Singapore launched invasive surveillance systems. Bolivia suspended its presidential election. Israel's prime minister is shutting down courts. Thailand's prime minister can now impose curfews and censor the news media. Hungary's parliament just gave Prime Minister Viktor Orban the power to suspend existing laws, suspend elections and rule by decree.

Last year, U.S. Ambassador to Hungary David Cornstein said that President Donald Trump "would love to have the situation that Viktor Orban has." Unlike Orban, Trump is lazy. As much

as he would love to have dictatorial powers, he doesn't want to put forth the effort necessary to seize them, even though he has a great excuse: preventing mass death. Instead of consolidating power, he is delegating to governors. Rather than fomenting public hysteria to justify emergency action, he minimized the dangers of the coronavirus, comparing it to the flu and saying it would go away on its own.

Even now, after his decision to keep social distancing measures in place through at least April, he doesn't want to talk about the coronavirus. The focus of his April 1 news briefing was drug cartels. Five days later, he tweeted, "Fake News is bad for America!" So are hundreds of thousands of preventable deaths.

Americans want the federal government to do more to keep them safe. But Trump largely refuses to employ his powers. Until late March, he had hesitated to invoke the Defense Production Act—a wartime law his administration has used literally hundreds of thousands of times—to acquire coronavirus test kits and hospital equipment. Rather than using his powers, he simply wants to be adored for having them.

This isn't to say that Trump misprizes all crises. To avoid taking responsibility, he's desperate to manufacture a fake crisis to distract from his failures in this real crisis. Talking about drug cartels after predicting at least 100,000 deaths in the U.S. from the pandemic is like telling a meth addict that watching CNN will kill him. Trump is using his daily news briefings on his coronavirus response as a platform to distract us from his coronavirus response. Instead of trying to solve a real problem, Trump is offering new imaginary problems—that he can control.

He's done it before. Trump stoked fears about illegal immi-

No doubt the White House relishes the opportunity to cast their disagreements in matters of oversight as a purely partisan exercise. But even Republican voters are going to notice if, whether deliberately or through circumstances, it becomes clear that Trump's closest allies have directly benefited from stimulus spending denied others. Senate Republicans must not allow the president to continue down this path.

Congress needs to stick to its guns and strengthen CARES Act oversight. At the very least, Americans need the assurance that the supervision will be as robust as the scrutiny given TARP.

By **WINDSOR MANN**

Los Angeles Times

Windsor Mann is the editor of The Quotable Hitchens: From Alcohol to Zionism.



grants before the government shutdown last year. In an Oval Office address on Jan. 8, 2019, he said the word "crisis" six times and accused illegal immigrants of committing "30,000 sex crimes and 4,000 violent killings."

After fabricating a crisis, the president declared a national emergency. The result? His fake crisis produced a real crisis: a partial shutdown of the federal government. Trump's brief, impulsive attempt at autocracy failed, just like his fragrance, Success, did.

Trump prefers fake problems to real problems because real problems demand real solutions, which demand real work. Trump doesn't like to work and rarely does. While marking 100 days in office, he complained, "This is more work than in my previous life. I thought it would be easier." He spends most of his waking hours watching TV, tweeting and talking on the phone.

In addition to being too lazy to do things, Trump is uninterested in doing things. He's interested in having things. This is what makes his narcissism malignant rather than benign. As the social psychologist Erich Fromm observed, narcissists derive their self-worth from their possessions, not from achievements.

Subverting democracy requires more effort than Trump is willing to exert. He wants to be a dictator, but he's unwilling to do the work to become one. Just as he inherited a fortune, he wants to inherit an autocracy. To be a successful strongman, you need a strong work ethic. Trump has only weak ethics.






That can start with a truly independent inspector general, not someone beholden to the president. That person also requires adequate resources and a guarantee he or she won't be fired if untoward behavior is uncovered. This is not too much to ask, not when such an enormous amount of money is involved. A lot of people are hurting right now and scared. A global pandemic and a crashing economy will do that. The last thing we need is the added worry that there's no check on potential public corruption in the nation's capital.

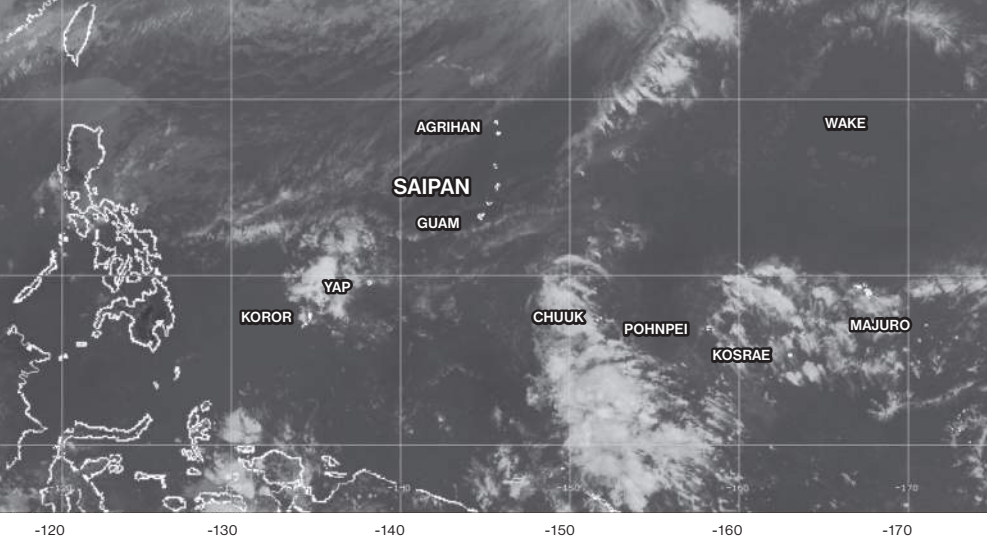
SCRUTINY

From Page 8

Ukraine phone call. More recently, the president has been critical of the Department of Health and Human Services' inspector general for daring to point out that the country's hospitals were ill-prepared for the coronavirus outbreak. House Democratic leaders say they are now looking into ways they can restrict Trump's authority over inspector generals.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly sunny with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
89°	75°	89°	76°	87°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:28 AM, TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The Marianas will stay in the usual April, seasonally dry weather. Additionally a dry layer in the 700 mb layer will reduce rain chances. Partly cloudy skies and isolated showers are possible through Wednesday. Models indicate a shear line moving south across the Marianas late in the week. This feature will be the best chance for rain through Sunday. A lack of deep moisture will limit the possibility for thunderstorms and at best, could support mostly cloudy skies and isolated showers.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:44 AM	12:14 PM	-
Thursday	1:34 AM	1:07 PM	-
Friday	2:19 AM	1:59 PM	-
Saturday	3:01 AM	2:48 PM	-
Sunday	3:40 AM	3:36 PM	-

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AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	66° / 59°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	81° / 52°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	75° / 70°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 71°	
London	Sunny	64° / 43°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	68° / 55°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	93° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	68° / 52°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
New York	Rain	69° / 48°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	66° / 48°	
Paris	Sunny	70° / 52°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	66° / 48°	
Rome	Sunny	70° / 48°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	81° / 52°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	62° / 51°	
Seoul	Sunny	66° / 39°	
Tokyo	Rain	64° / 48°	
Washington, DC	Showers	53° / 39°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:04 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.74	
8:37 AM	LOW TIDE	1.26	
12:35 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.52	
8:21 PM	LOW TIDE	0.11	

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 - *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
 - Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net



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GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF
APRIL 14, 2020



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APRIL 14, 2020



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
• **Cashier & Customer Service**
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 664-4282
Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org
or via phone by calling toll free 1-(855)-729-2282



Department of Finance
• **Division of Revenue & Taxation**
CASHIER ONLY
Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tel: (670) 664-1000



Division of Customs Services
• **Airport:** OPEN DAILY
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
• **Seaport:** Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
• **Chalan Kanoa Post Office:**
Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM



Department of Public Lands
• CASHIER ONLY
Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53/54



Department of Public Works
• **Solid Waste Management Division**
• **Lower Base Transfer Station**
Open all week except Wednesday
7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-2745
• **Morpi Landfill**
Open all week except Wednesday
7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-2761



Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
• Available via phone or email only on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-6537/38
Email: maryann@ovrgov.net



Office of the Attorney General
• **Civil & Criminal Divisions**
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tel: (670) 237-7500/7600



Office of the Public Defender
• Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Tel: (670) 234-6503



CNMI State Medicaid Agency
Eligibility staff are available to answer calls on Tuesday - Thursday from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882.
Accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office.
Medicaid application & renewal/redetermination forms must be original.
Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at: www.medicaid.cnmi.mp



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
Accepting Calls From Existing Customers Only
Tel: (670) 287-1475
- **Division of Youth Services (DYS) On-Call**
Saipan: (670) 285-2780 / 287-2781 / 287-1773
Tinian: (670) 287-3268
Rota: (670) 287-2553
- **Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)**
For inquiries regarding parent eligibility requirements for CCDF Program:
Tel: (670) 783-8571 / (670) 783-8572
Email: dccajguerrero@gmail.com / ccdf.jrosario@gmail.com
- **Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture (CCAC)**
For Recovery Arts Grant Application Submissions. Grant Guidelines are available at <http://www.cnmiartscouncil.org>
Tel.: (670) 287-4585
Email: parkeryobei@gmail.com
- **Historic Preservation Office (HPO)**
For Processing of Federal 106 Consultations Call
Tel: (670) 789-1986
Email: rchong.cnmihpo@gmail.com

Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)
Benefit Pick Up: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Application Pick Up: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Application Submission:
Anytime via Drop-Box

Application Inquiries:
Tel: (670) 237-2801/2802

To download the NAP application and other forms go to dcca.gov.mp
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Business

‘Absolute chaos’ as businesses try to tap into rescue funds

NEW YORK (AP)—Desperate small business owners who hoped for a quick government lifeline to help them survive the coronavirus crisis are still without funds, instead battling red tape, wary banks and swamped computer systems.

Thousands of owners who applied for loans under the government’s Paycheck Protection Program are in their second week of waiting for their money.

And thousands who sought relief through Small Business

IMF cancels debt payments for 6 months for 25 poor nations

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The International Monetary Fund approved \$500 million on Monday to cancel six months of debt payments for 25 of the world’s most impoverished countries so they can help tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

IMF Executive Director Kristalina Georgieva issued a statement saying the IMF executive board approved the immediate debt service relief for 19 African countries, Afghanistan, Haiti, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan and Yemen.

“This provides grants to our poorest and most vulnerable members to cover their IMF debt obligations for an initial phase over the next six months and will help them channel more of their scarce financial resources towards vital emergency medical and other relief efforts,” Georgieva said.

She said the money will

come from the IMF’s revamped Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, which will use recent pledges of \$185 million from the United Kingdom and \$100 million from Japan. She urged other donors to help replenish the trust’s resources.

The 19 African countries to receive debt relief are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone and Togo.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and a group of 165 former global leaders and prominent international figures have urged the suspension of debt repayments for the world’s poorest and most vulnerable countries so they can use their scant resources for the coronavirus crisis.



AP
In this March 25, 2020 file photo, the dining section is closed off at East Side Pockets, a small restaurant near Brown University, in Providence, R.I.

Administration economic injury disaster loans have waited even longer—some since mid-March.

A few have gotten money. But a panoply of issues at the SBA and banks have far more wondering if they’ll be able to stay in business—they’ve been forced to close their doors due to social-distancing regulations or because customers have cut back their spending.

Those in limbo include owners hoping to avoid layoffs.

The cancellation of weddings, parties and other events

forced caterer Leslie Nilsson to lay off half her staff of 10, but her kitchen staffers are still working, preparing 500 meals a day for New York health care workers.

“If I don’t get this money, I don’t know how I’m going to pay them past these next two weeks,” said Nilsson, owner of Bartleby & Sage. She has applied for a loan under the \$349 billion Paycheck Protection Program. She’s also hoping to get her administrative staff back to work.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin raised expectations of nearly immediate cash when, in announcing the Paycheck Protection Program, he said companies could receive their loan money the same day they apply.

But Mnuchin’s forecast didn’t factor in technological glitches, including problems with the SBA’s E-Tran processing system on Monday. It also overestimated the ability of the banks to turn around the massive number of applications they were receiving.

Since April 3, when the program began, more than 791,000 applications have been approved by the SBA. In 2019, it handled under 60,000.

Bankers say they knew going into the program that there would be a tsunami of applications. But even those expectations were blown out of the water—Huntington Bank, the largest SBA lender by volume, had 16,000 applications the first weekend. The bank handled SBA 36,000 applications in all of 2019.

A smaller bank, Washington Trust Bank, located in the Pacific Northwest, received 1,900 applications the first week, 20 times the number of applications it handled last year.

“It’s been absolute chaos, and we haven’t even gotten to the point where the program is fully open yet,” said Jack Heath, president of Washington Trust. Heath said there were still another 600 applications waiting to be processed.

APAFS renews sponsorship of GIPS

HAGATNA, Guam—The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies (APAFS) and the CFA Centre for Financial Market Integrity (CFA Centre) jointly announced that the CFA Centre-sponsored Investment Performance Council (IPC) has voted to acknowledge the APAFS as an official sponsor of the Global Investment Performance Standards, or GIPS® standards, for the Micronesian region. The GIPS standards are well-recognized with high compliance levels amongst key financial centers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia, Asia, Africa, and the Far East.

Although the activities of the GIPS standards are funded and administered by the CFA Centre, their success is the result of an alliance of sponsors with experts from a variety of fields within the global investment industry. These key

industry groups have been involved in and contributed significantly to promoting and developing the GIPS standards. The APAFS was the 27th group to join this alliance in 2006.

“We are very proud to be once again selected to continue the important role of promoting the GIPS standards in Micronesia. In continuing as a sponsor we will jointly cooperate with the CFA Centre in setting best practices in investment performance,” said Daniel A. Roland, CIMA®, AIFA®, APAFS executive director. Roland added that as a GIPS sponsor, the APAFS will continue to “ensure that the

foregoing standards will be applicable to Micronesia and that investment performance calculation and presentation can be compared from one place to another.”

Cindy S. Kent, director, Global Investment Performance Standards, CFA Institute, said “We are pleased to renew our partnership with the APAFS as the endorsed GIPS Standards Sponsor in Micronesia, and look forward to working together with APAFS and its institutional fund membership over the coming years.” Ms. Kent added that “APAFS’s leadership provides a model for other institutional fund sponsor

associations and I applaud the commitment of APAFS to actively promote fiduciary best practices such as the GIPS standards.”

Based on the principles of fair representation and full disclosure, the GIPS standards provide an ethical framework for the calculation and presentation of investment performance for investment management firms. The GIPS standards benefit both the investment management firms and their current and potential investing clients. Global standardization of investment performance reporting gives investors around the world the additional transparency they need to compare investment managers and will allow managers to compete for new business in foreign markets.

“From the plan sponsors’ perspective, the major benefit of the GIPS standards is to advocate high quality and a unified approach in performance presentation practice and hence, provides users with a greater degree of confidence in the performance data being presented by prospective service providers,” commented Gerard Cruz, Trustee, Government of Guam Employees Retirement Fund, and Chairman of the APAFS Board of Governors.

APAFS is a non-profit educational and charitable association founded in 2000 for and by, representatives from public and private institutional funds from around the Asia Pacific Region. The goal of APAFS is to raise the level of understanding and standards of practice among fiduciaries in the region, so that they might provide the most prudent stewardship of the funds entrusted to their care. The interests of APAFS coincide with those of CFA Institute, whose mission is to lead the investment profession globally by setting the highest standards of education, integrity, and professional excellence. APAFS

has a wide mix of members representing public funds, endowments and foundations and private sector retirement plans. More information can be found at www.apafs.org.

CFA Institute is the global, non-profit professional association that administers the Chartered Financial Analyst® curriculum and examination program worldwide and sets voluntary, ethics-based professional and performance-reporting standards for the investment industry. CFA membership includes the world’s 154,000 CFA charterholders, as well as 151 affiliated professional societies and chapters in 165 countries and territories. CFA Institute is headquartered in Charlottesville, Virginia., USA, with additional offices in London, Hong Kong Beijing, Mumbai, Shanghai, Abu Dhabi and New York City. More information can be found at www.cfainstitute.org. (PR)

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PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

23,390.77

-328.60

1.39%

S&P

2,761.63

-28.19

1.01%

NASDAQ

8,192.42

+38.85

0.45%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar

1.55703

British Pound

0.795929

Canadian Dollar

1.38734

Chinese Yuan

7.04111

Euro

0.913835

Hong Kong Dollar

7.75250

Indian Rupee

76.2306

Japanese Yen

107.712

Malaysian Ringgit

4.32300

New Zealand Dollar

1.63368

Philippine Peso

50.6286

Russian Ruble

73.3638

Singapore Dollar

1.41497

South Korean Won

1,215.81

Swiss Franc

0.964627

Taiwan Dollar

30.0578

Thailand Baht

32.7194

Nation

Trump claims he has ‘total’ authority over reopening economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump claimed the “total” authority to decide how and when to reopen the economy after weeks of tough social distancing guidelines aimed at fighting the new coronavirus. But governors from both parties were quick to push back, noting they have primary responsibility for ensuring public safety in their states and would decide when it’s safe to begin a return to normal operations.

Trump would not offer specifics about the source of his asserted power, which he claimed, despite constitutional limitations, was absolute.

“When somebody is president of the United States, the authority is total,” Trump said Monday at the White House. “The governors know that.”

The comments came not long after Democratic leaders in the Northeast and along the West Coast announced separate state compacts to coordinate their efforts to scale back stay-at-home orders or reopen businesses on their own timetables.

Anxious to put the crisis behind him, Trump has been discussing with senior aides how to roll back federal social distancing recommendations that expire at the end of the month.

While Trump has issued national recommendations advising people stay home, it has



President Donald Trump speaks about the coronavirus in the James Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House, Monday, April 13, 2020, in Washington.

been governors and local leaders who have instituted mandatory restrictions, including shuttering schools and closing non-essential businesses. Some of those orders carry fines or other penalties, and in some jurisdictions extend into the early summer.

And governors made clear

Monday they wouldn’t tolerate pressure to act before they deem it safe.

“All of these executive orders are state executive orders and so therefore it would be up to the state and the governor to undo a lot of that,” New Hampshire Republican Gov. Chris Sununu said on CNN.

“The government doesn’t get opened up via Twitter. It gets opened up at the state level,” said Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat.

Meanwhile, governors were banding together, with New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Rhode Island agreeing to coordinate their actions. The governors of California,

Oregon and Washington announced a similar pact. While each state is building its own plan, the three West Coast states have agreed to a framework saying they will work together, put their residents’ health first and let science guide their decisions.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat, stressed the efforts would take time.

“The house is still on fire,” Murphy said on a conference call with reporters. “We still have to put the fire out, but we do have to begin putting in the pieces of the puzzle that we know we’re going to need ... to make sure this doesn’t reignite.”

Trump, however, insisted it was his decision to make.

“The president of the United States calls the shots,” he said, promising to release a paper outlining his legal argument.

Trump can use his bully pulpit to pressure states to act or threaten them with consequences, but the Constitution gives public health and safety responsibilities primarily to state and local officials.

Though Trump abandoned his goal of beginning to roll back social distancing guidelines by Easter, he has been itching to reboot an economy that has dramatically contracted as businesses have shuttered, leaving millions of people out of work and struggling to obtain basic commodities. The closure has also undermined Trump’s reelection message, which hinged on a booming economy.

Trump’s claim that he could force governors to reopen their states also represents a dramatic shift in tone. For weeks Trump has argued that states, not the federal government, should lead the response to the crisis.

Airlines wait as Treasury applies strings to payroll aid

The Treasury Department and leading airlines continued negotiating Monday over terms of coronavirus-relief payments, with Treasury sticking to a proposal that could give the government an ownership stake in the nation’s leading carriers.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said agreements with the airlines over terms of the \$25 billion in payroll assistance could come soon.

“I think you will see very quickly decisions coming out. I’m very pleased with the discussions,” Mnuchin said at a White House briefing.

The Treasury Department payments were supposed to begin a week ago. The major holdup in recent days was Treasury’s insistence that 30% of the aid for larger airlines would be in the form of loans that must be repaid and with the government getting warrants equal to 10% of the loan amount, according to two officials familiar with the matter.

The amount of each airline’s stock that the government could get would depend on several factors including 2019 labor costs and recent

stock market value.

Raymond James airline analyst Savanthi Syth estimated that if the government exercises the warrants, it could wind up with 3% of American Airlines, 2% of United Airlines, and 1% each of Delta Air Lines and Southwest Airlines. Those four carriers control more than 80% of the U.S. air travel market.

The airlines have fought Treasury’s proposal. They thought they had a better deal last month: Congress agreed to give passenger airlines \$25 billion in cash grants to cover payroll costs for six months, through September.

But Mnuchin spelled out Treasury’s proposal to CEOs of the six largest airlines on Friday. That surprised the airlines.

“We believe the law indicated that the (direct aid) funding was to be only in grants—which is considerably more effective for our employees—and not a combination of grants and loans,” a spokeswoman for the trade group Airlines for America said in a statement. “This federal relief is critical to getting

our employees paid and preventing furloughs right now, especially as our country is experiencing historically high unemployment claims.”

As days passed after Treasury’s deadline to begin making payments, airline labor union officials grew more worried. They urged Treasury to start distributing the grants, which were due to be paid out beginning April 6, 10 days after President Donald Trump signed a \$2.2 trillion coronavirus-relief measure that included help for the airlines. Leaders of 11 unions pressed Mnuchin on the matter in a letter, writing that if the grants are delayed any longer, workers will lose their jobs “and our aviation industry will collapse.”

“This is not free money to the airlines, it’s money that is intended to keep people on the job and their paychecks going,” Sara Nelson, president of the Association of Flight Attendants, said in an interview. “The pace of this is seriously concerning. There are smaller carriers that are not going to make payroll this week without that money.” (AP)

Officials want delay in nation’s head count due to virus

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The U.S. Census Bureau wants to delay deadlines for the 2020 head count of all U.S. residents because of the coronavirus outbreak, a move that if approved by lawmakers would push back timetables for releasing data used to draw congressional and legislative districts, officials said Monday.

Census Bureau officials said they were postponing all field operations until June 1 and the deadline for wrapping up the nation’s head count was being pushed back to Oct. 31.

Field operations for the 2020 census have been suspended since mid-March and were set to resume this week. The deadline for finishing the head count also had been pushed back from the end of July to mid-August because of the pandemic.

Census Bureau director Steven Dillingham and Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, whose department oversees the bureau, said they are seeking to delay the deadline for delivering state population counts used for apportion-

ment—the process of carving up congressional districts—from the end of this year to the end of April 2021.

They also want to push back the deadline for giving states data for redistricting from the end of March 2021 to the end of July 2021.

Both deadlines are established by federal law and any changes would require congressional approval.

The White House arranged a call on Monday with congressional leaders about the requested changes, but no one from the Census Bureau was on the call. The House Committee on Oversight and Reform will carefully examine the request, said U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, who chairs the committee.

“The director of the Census Bureau was not even on today’s call, and the administration has refused for weeks to allow him to brief members of our committee, despite repeated requests,” said Maloney, a Democrat from New York. “If the Administration is trying to avoid the perception of po-

liticizing the census, preventing the Census director from briefing the committee and then excluding him from a call organized by the White House are not encouraging moves.”

The Census Bureau said that the goal of the delays is to ensure a complete and accurate count.

When field operations start in June, workers will be given personal protective equipment and guidelines for social distancing, the bureau said in a statement.

“In-person activities, including all interaction with the public, enumeration, office work and processing activities, will incorporate the most current guidance to promote the health and safety of staff and the public,” the statement said.

Census historian Margo Anderson said the statutory deadlines are more than four decades old. The bureau has been flexible in dealing with past unexpected hurdles, such as during the 1850 census when returns from California were lost at sea. In that case, another state count was conducted in 1852, she said.

Asia

ASEAN leaders meet by video on pandemic

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Forced apart by the coronavirus pandemic, Southeast Asian leaders linked up by video Tuesday to plot a strategy to overcome a crisis that has threatened their economies and kept millions of people in their homes under lockdowns.

The heads of state of the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations were to hold further talks later Tuesday, also through video conferencing, with their counterparts from China, Japan and South Korea who are expected to express their support in helping ASEAN fight the coronavirus. Vietnam, ASEAN's leader this year, has postponed an in-person gathering tentatively to June.

"It is in these grim hours that the solidarity of the ASEAN community shines like a beacon in the dark," Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said in an opening speech.

Containment efforts have placed the pandemic "actually under control," he said, warning against complacency, with a number of member countries, including Indonesia and the Philippines, fearing spikes in infections after large-scale testing is conducted.

Founded in 1967 in the Cold War era, ASEAN—a diverse bloc representing more than 640 million people—has held annual summits of

its leaders and top diplomats with ceremonies steeped in tradition, protocol and photo-ops. Derided as a talk shop by critics, the bloc is known largely for photographs of its leaders locking arms at annual meetings in a show of unity despite often-thorny differences.

Diplomats say that unity is now crucial as the region battles the COVID-19 disease. All of ASEAN's member states have been hit by infections, with the total number of confirmed cases reaching more than 20,400, including over 840 deaths, despite massive lockdowns, travel restrictions and home quarantines.

"The COVID-19 crisis is a crisis like no other in the past, not just in its potential calamitous scale but in the hope to contain and stop it by unstinting cooperation and fullest trust between all countries," said the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs. "If any of us fails, the rest will follow."

The World Health Organization called on Southeast Asian countries last month to aggressively ramp up efforts to combat the viral outbreak as infections spread. Several visiting participants of a large religious gathering in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in late February reportedly tested positive for the virus after attending the event.

But Vietnamese Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh

said ASEAN had responded to the outbreak quickly, with his country, as the bloc's current leader, calling for the need for region-wide action in mid-February, followed by a series of ministerial meetings and consultations with China, the United States and the WHO.

"Countries in our region have all suffered severe consequences from COVID-19," he said. "We have made every effort to combat this pandemic."

Tuesday's summit was to include discussions on a regional stockpile of medical equipment for emergencies and establishing a regional fund for combating the pandemic.

With travel restrictions and lockdowns across the region, many industries have been hit hard, including the tourism and retail sectors, and growth targets have been revised downward. The overall economic impact of the pandemic on the region will "likely be broad and deep," according to an ASEAN assessment.

Hard-hit China, where the virus was first detected in December, is one of the largest trading partners and sources of tourists for Southeast Asia.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang was expected to join the video summit along with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

Many answer Abe's 'stay home' call with reminder: They can't

TOKYO (AP)—Perhaps the best that can be said about a "stay home" tweet from Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is that it's given bored copycats sitting at home waiting out the coronavirus ample inspiration.

It apparently rubbed many people frustrated by Abe's handling of the crisis the wrong way.

Abe, like U.S. President Donald Trump, has faced accusations his moves to counter the coronavirus were too little, too late. Until late March, Abe's administration was still insisting the Tokyo Olympics would go ahead as planned in July. It's now been postponed until July 2021.

Abe declared a month-long state of emergency in Tokyo and six other prefectures deemed at highest risk of an explosion of coronavirus infections just last Tues-

day. The government asked people in those areas—later expanded to all of Japan—to stay at home.

But the "stay home" message has incensed many who note that most Japanese cannot remain at home because the government's social distancing policy is voluntary and doesn't come with compensation for cash-strapped workers.

The video posted on Twitter, on a split screen accompanied by a guitar-playing popular singer, shows Abe sitting at home looking bored. Abe reading a book. Abe cuddling his dog, sipping from a cup and flipping channels with a remote.

"You cannot see your friends or organize drinking parties, but your actions are surely saving many lives," says the video's written message. "Everyone please cooperate."

The sight of Abe, heir to a wealthy political dynasty, in such genteel surroundings hasn't resonated well with families being asked to stay cooped up in cramped apartments and with workers still having to commute, since many Japanese companies have been slow to switch to remote work. Some people have lost their jobs or had their salaries cut.

"An elegant tweet despite a national crisis," blared a headline in the Nikkan Sports tabloid. "Abe the aristocrat!"

Many on Twitter mocked Abe with their own satirical versions of his poses, including one person who did so in the nude with "stay home" messages written in marker on his bare chest and tummy, his privates camouflaged with props including a Chinese lion dance head he cuddled as if it was a pet.

World



A woman stands by her open window while playing amplified music and with disco lights, as the lockdown to combat the spread of coronavirus continues in Madrid, Spain, Monday, April 13, 2020. AP

Virus cases about 2M worldwide

» Few new hot spots

WASHINGTON (AP)—New York's coronavirus death toll topped 10,000 and the worldwide number of confirmed cases hovered around 2 million on Monday, even as the lack of fresh hot spots globally yielded a ray of optimism and fueled discussions about how some places might begin to reopen.

The brunt of the disease has been felt most heavily in New York, Italy, France, Spain and the United Kingdom, but grim projections of a virus that would spread with equal ferocity to other corners of America and the world have not yet materialized after more than a month of measures meant to blunt its impact.

An online dashboard that tracks the global number of confirmed coronavirus cases, maintained by Johns Hopkins University, late Monday night showed the number of cases in the U.S. approaching 683,000, with more than 2 million worldwide. The site was later adjusted to reflect nearly 582,000 cases in the U.S. and 1.9 million cases worldwide. It was not immediately clear why the numbers changed. Of those 1.9 million cases, nearly 120,000 people have died, while nearly 449,600 have recovered.

The death toll in populous states such as Florida and Pennsylvania was on par with some individual counties outside New York City. Houston, the nation's fourth-largest city and a hub for immigrant communities and business travelers in the energy industry, has been largely spared compared to other parts of the U.S. As Colorado deaths surpassed 300 on Monday, Gov. Jared

Polis compared that figure to New York's thousands and called it "a tragic indication of our success in Colorado."

Officials around the world worried that halting quarantine and social-distancing measures could easily undo the hard-earned progress that those steps have achieved in slowing the spread.

Still, there were signs countries were looking in that direction. Spain permitted some workers to return to their jobs, while a hard-hit region of Italy loosened its lockdown restrictions. Governors on both coasts of the U.S. announced that they would join forces to come up with a coordinated reopening at some point, setting the stage for a potential conflict with President Donald Trump, who asserted that he is the ultimate decision-maker for determining how and when to reopen.

Trump continued those assertions during an afternoon White House briefing on Monday, pushing back against reporters' questions about whether the president or governors have the authority to ease the restrictions. He said his administration has "a very good relationship" with the governors, but "the federal government has absolute power" in that decision-making process if it chooses to exercise it.

The Trump administration also sought to delay deadlines for the 2020 census because of the outbreak, a move that would push back timetables for releasing data used to draw congressional and legislative districts.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said at Monday's briefing that he expects more than 80 million Americans will have tax rebates directly deposited into their bank accounts by Wednesday. The rebates are

aimed at boosting the economy as the country responds to the coronavirus.

New York saw a few positive signs Monday even as it reached another bleak milestone. It marked the first time in a week that the daily toll dipped below 700. Almost 2,000 people were newly hospitalized with the virus Sunday, though once discharges and deaths are accounted for, the number of people hospitalized has flattened to just under 19,000.

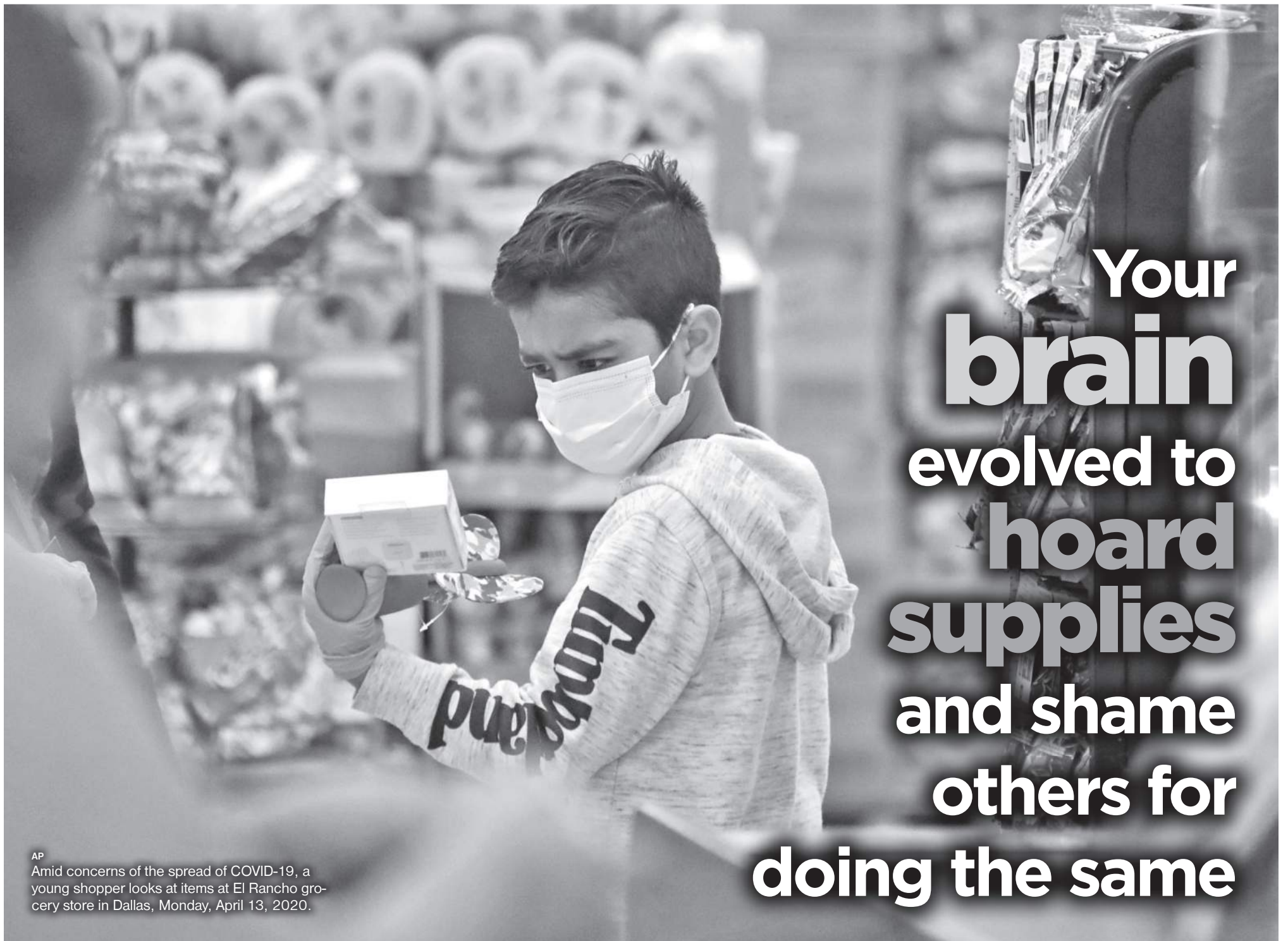
"This virus is very good at what it does. It is a killer," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Monday.

In the U.S., about half of the more than 22,000 deaths reported are in the New York metropolitan area. Meanwhile, Johns Hopkins' tracking maps showed a dense patchwork of coronavirus cases along the Northeast corridor, as well as significant outbreaks corresponding to other major metropolitan areas — though nothing on the scale of what New York has endured.

Houston's 18 total deaths since the start of the outbreak make up a tiny fraction of the one-day toll in New York City, prompting Mayor Sylvester Turner to say the city was achieving its goal of slowing "the progression of this virus so that our health care delivery system would not be overwhelmed."

Dr. Sebastian Johnston, a professor of respiratory medicine at Imperial College London, said it appeared that COVID-19 had peaked in much of Europe, including France, Spain, Germany, Italy and the U.K. He was worried the virus might now start to take off in countries across Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia. There's also concern about Russia.

Good Housekeeping



AP
Amid concerns of the spread of COVID-19, a young shopper looks at items at El Rancho grocery store in Dallas, Monday, April 13, 2020.

**Your
brain
evolved to
hoard
supplies
and shame
others for
doing the same**

By **STEPHANIE PRESTON**
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The media is replete with COVID-19 stories about people clearing supermarket shelves — and the backlash against them. Have people gone mad? How can one individual be overfilling his own cart, while shaming others who are doing the same?

As a behavioral neuroscientist who has studied hoarding behavior for 25 years, I can tell you that this is all normal and expected. People are acting the way evolution has wired them.

Stockpiling provisions

The word “hoarding” might bring to mind relatives or neighbors whose houses are overfilled with junk. A small percentage of people do suffer from what psychologists call “hoarding disorder,” keeping excessive goods to the point of distress and impairment.

But hoarding is actually a totally normal and adaptive behavior that kicks in any time there is an uneven supply of

resources. Everyone hoards, even during the best of times, without even thinking about it. People like to have beans in the pantry, money in savings and chocolates hidden from the children. These are all hoards.

Most Americans have had so much, for so long. People forget that, not so long ago, survival often depended on working tirelessly all year to fill root cellars so a family could last through a long, cold winter — and still many died.

Similarly, squirrels work all fall to hide nuts to eat for the rest of the year. Kangaroo rats in the desert hide seeds the few times it rains and then remember where they put them to dig them back up later. A Clark’s nutcracker can hoard over 10,000 pine seeds per fall — and even remember where it put them.

Similarities between human behavior and these animals’ are not just analogies. They reflect a deeply ingrained capacity for brains to motivate us to acquire and save resources that may

not always be there. Suffering from hoarding disorder, stockpiling in a pandemic or hiding nuts in the fall — all of these behaviors are motivated less by logic and more by a deeply felt drive to feel safer.

My colleagues and I have found that stress seems to signal the brain to switch into “get hoarding” mode. For example, a kangaroo rat will act very lazy if fed regularly. But if its weight starts to drop, its brain signals to release stress hormones that incite the fastidious hiding of seeds all over the cage.

Kangaroo rats will also increase their hoarding if a neighboring animal steals from them. Once, I returned to the lab to find the victim of theft with all his remaining food stuffed into his cheek pouches — the only safe place.

People do the same. If in our lab studies my colleagues and I make them feel anxious, our study subjects want to take more stuff home with them afterward.

Demonstrating this shared inheritance, the same brain ar-

reas are active when people decide to take home toilet paper, bottled water or granola bars, as when rats store lab chow under their bedding — the orbitofrontal cortex and nucleus accumbens, regions that generally help organize goals and motivations to satisfy needs and desires.

Damage to this system can even induce abnormal hoarding. One man who suffered frontal lobe damage had a sudden urge to hoard bullets. Another could not stop “borrowing” others’ cars. Brains across species use these ancient neural systems to ensure access to needed items — or ones that feel necessary.

So, when the news induces a panic that stores are running out of food, or that residents will be trapped in place for weeks, the brain is programmed to stock up. It makes you feel safer, less stressed, and actually protects you in an emergency.

More than a fair share

At the same time they’re organizing their own stockpiles,

people get upset about those who are taking too much. That is a legitimate concern; it’s a version of the “tragedy of the commons,” wherein a public resource might be sustainable, but people’s tendency to take a little extra for themselves degrades the resource to the point where it can no longer help anyone.

By shaming others on social media, for instance, people exert what little influence they have to ensure cooperation with the group. As a social species, human beings thrive when they work together, and have employed shaming — even punishment — for millennia to ensure that everyone acts in the best interest of the group.

And it works. Twitter users went after a guy reported to have hoarded 17,700 bottles of hand sanitizer in the hopes of turning a profit; he ended up donating all of it and is under investigation for price gouging. Who wouldn’t pause before grabbing those last few rolls of TP when the mob is watching?

People will continue to hoard to the extent that they are worried. They will also continue to shame others who take more than what they consider a fair share. Both are normal and adaptive behaviors that evolved to balance one another out, in the long run.

But that’s cold comfort for someone on the losing end of a temporary imbalance — like a health care worker who did not have protective gear when they encountered a sick patient. The survival of the group hardly matters to the person who dies, or to their parent, child or friend.

One thing to remember is that the news selectively depicts stockpiling stories, presenting audiences with the most shocking cases. Most people are not charging \$400 for a mask. Most are just trying to protect themselves and their families, the best way they know how, while also offering aid wherever they can. That’s how the human species evolved, to get through challenges like this together.

Life & Style

'Trolls World Tour' scores record digital debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Trolls World Tour” became the biggest digital debut of all time this weekend, Universal Pictures said Monday.

The animated sequel featuring the voices of Justin Timberlake and Anna Kendrick was No. 1 on all the major platforms, including Apple, Amazon and Comcast. FandangoNow also said the release of “Trolls World Tour” helped the service have its best weekend ever. It was also its most preordered film ever.

“Trolls World Tour” was the first film from a major studio to debut on digital platforms on

the same date as its theatrical release due to the coronavirus pandemic. It also played in 21 drive-in theaters over the weekend that have remained open.

Most traditional theaters have closed indefinitely, forcing studios to push planned releases back a number of months. Many films that had already hit theaters, including Universal titles like “The Hunt” and “Emma,” are now available for digital purchase or rental.

“Trolls World Tour” was an outlier, however, in keeping its release date. Specific numbers were not provided.



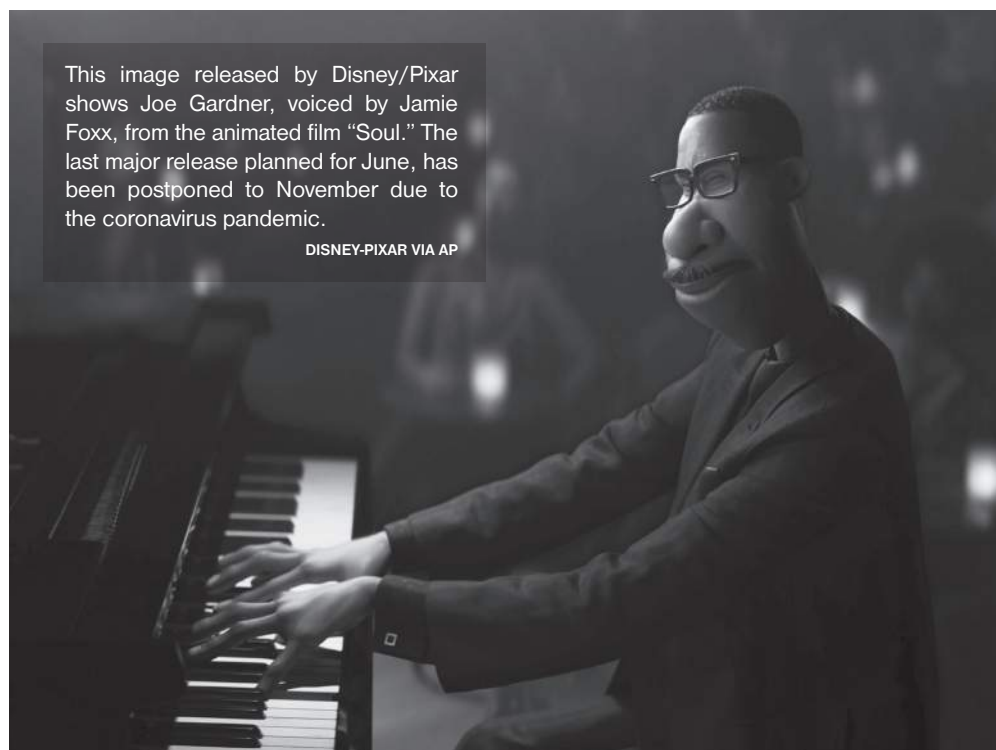
This image released by DreamWorks Animation shows characters Branch, voiced by Justin Timberlake, left, and Poppy, voiced by Anna Kendrick in a scene from “Trolls World Tour.” DREAMWORKS ANIMATION VIA AP

Pixar's summer release 'Soul' postponed to November

NEW YORK (AP)—Pixar's “Soul,” the last major release planned for June, has been postponed to November because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Walt Disney Co. announced Monday that “Soul” won't open June 19, but will instead hit theaters Nov. 20. The major studios have now cleared out all releases until mid-July, where a handful of movies still remain on the calendar. Those include Christopher Nolan's “Tenet” (July 17) and “Mulan” (July 24), which already had its March debut postponed.

The lion's share of Hollywood's summer season has been canceled because of the pandemic. With theaters closed nationwide and throughout much of Europe and Asia, the industry has been grappling with when cinemas might reopen, and how to reshuffle its largest blockbusters.



This image released by Disney/Pixar shows Joe Gardner, voiced by Jamie Foxx, from the animated film “Soul.” The last major release planned for June, has been postponed to November due to the coronavirus pandemic. DISNEY-PIXAR VIA AP

The last Pixar release, “Onward,” played in theaters for two weeks before the pandemic forced it to digital platforms. “Soul,” with a voice cast in-

cluding Jamie Foxx and Tina Fey, is about a middle-school teacher whose soul is separated from his body in an accident.

With the postponement of

“Soul,” Disney also moved the animated film “Raya and the Last Dragon” from November to March 12 of next year.

Quibi stars have no quibble with new phone-only filmmaking

NEW YORK (AP)—They were skeptical. The name was weird. The concept was a little crazy—but it was intriguing.

Oscar-winner Christoph Waltz and rising star Stephan James each overcame initial reluctance to become pioneers in Quibi, the mobile phone-only platform that offers installments of movies and TV in 10 minutes or less.

“When they told me about the whole endeavor, I said, ‘Really? Have attention spans come down that far? It's now below 10 minutes?’” jokes Waltz.

Now on the other side, both film actors are firm believers in the process that transforms their art into something snack-sized. “It was kind of ingenious and I'm honestly glad I took the risk,” says James. “As the times change, we'll change with it—and we should.”

Quibi launched last week with a staggering 175-plus programs planned for this

year, including “Punk'd,” with Chance the Rapper and “Chrissy's Court,” with Chrissy Teigen administering justice in small claims cases.

Two of the more prestigious scripted shows are Waltz's “Most Dangerous Game”—co-starring Liam Hemsworth as a man who becomes hunters' prey—and James' “#FreeRayshawn,” the tense story of a man set up by police in New Orleans.

The actors say nothing on their Quibi film sets was different from being on a regular Hollywood one, with no dilution of quality or corners cut. “You wouldn't have done anything different on a project that is shot for the theaters,” says Waltz.

Waltz's show has 16 episodes and with each running about 10 minutes, the total entertainment time of “Most Dangerous Game” is what you'd find at any film at the cineplex. It's just in chunks.

Woman with new boyfriend keeps neighbor up at night

DEAR ABBY: I live in a densely populated luxury high-rise apartment building in a busy downtown neighborhood that has a diverse mix of residents. I have lived here for four years and have never really had many issues, until recently.

My next-door neighbor works in the medical field that at times has very late or early hours associated with it. I also work in a field that has odd hours, so I am empathetic. My issue is, she has a new boyfriend she is intimate with anywhere between 2 and 4 a.m. I am a light sleeper and get awakened by their sessions together. I can hear her voice and at times, jostling of furniture.

I have thought about telling the building management, but it would be obvious that the complaint would have come from me, and I don't want that. I also don't want to cause embarrassment to either of us. How can I address this delicately, without causing embarrassment, or must I suck it up and suffer?

SLEEPLESS IN CHICAGO

DEAR SLEEPLESS: Write your neighbor a sweet note explaining the problem and ask if there is anything she can do to muffle the sounds you are hearing. (It might be something as simple as moving her bed away from the wall or placing it against a different one.) However, if she's uncooperative, as a last resort, do discuss your problem

with the building manager. I assure you, it won't be the first time he or she has heard something like this, or the last.

DEAR ABBY: I suffer from a moderate to severe case of social anxiety. I'm now in my first relationship with a partner who tends to move fast, and whose parents have recently been asking to meet me. This has caused tension in our relationship as well as in his relationship with his parents.

Because of some past experiences with previous partners, his parents have preconceived notions about me, which makes me feel all the more reluctant to meet them. I don't like feeling vulnerable, especially with people who don't know me. One counseling session with a boss, a professor, someone in authority, etc., and I'm on the verge of tears or already crying.

I know I'll have to meet his parents someday, but I don't know how to approach it. I feel overwhelmed just thinking about it. Please help.

SOCIALLY ANXIOUS

DEAR SOCIALLY ANXIOUS: I hope you are receiving professional help for your social anxiety. You should not approach meeting your partner's parents with a negative attitude. Smile, put your best foot forward and try to make a good impression.

Keep in mind that this is not a performance review, a

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

professor you need to give you a good grade or anyone in authority. They are parents of a son whose past judgment about partners may have been less than stellar, and of course they have concerns.

It would be nice if they thought the moon rose and set on you, but if they don't, will it affect your relationship with your partner? If the answer is yes, then he may not be mature and independent enough to be having a romance with anyone. Hold a good thought and stop hiding out.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



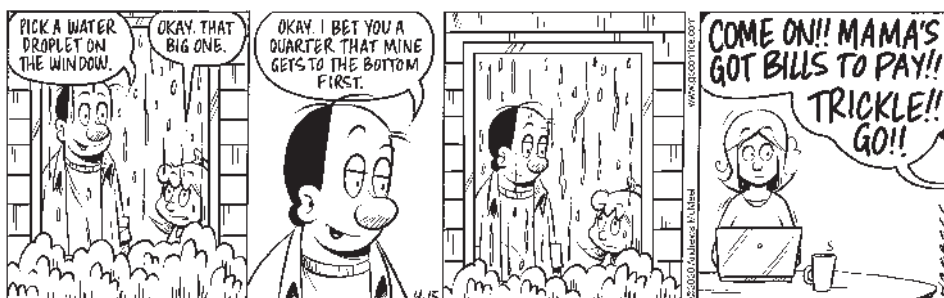
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



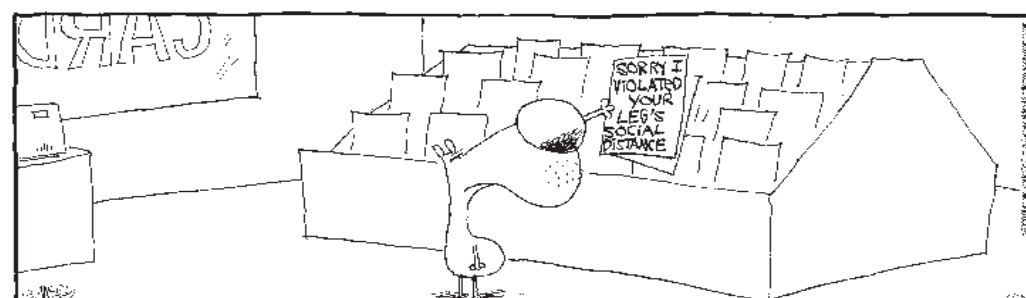
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ad agcy. client
5 La-la lead-in
8 Junk email
12 Adhesive
13 Peanut product
14 Used a loom
15 Tabasco, for one
17 Bickering
18 Sailor's affirmative
19 Gung-ho
21 "Entourage" character
22 Buckeye State
23 Possess
26 Atty.'s title
28 Not taut
31 Source
33 Calendar abbr.
35 "Understood"
36 Barbarians
38 Sprite
40 Sawbuck
41 Campus area

DOWN

43 Notable time
45 Dribble a basketball
47 Kind of table
51 Footnote abbr.
52 Started
54 Memory method
55 St. crosser
56 Aware of
57 Antelope's playmate
58 Feeling down
59 Boxing stats
1 Turkish title
Solution time: 21 mins.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Maisie Williams, 23; Emma Watson, 30; Seth Rogen, 38; Emma Thompson, 61.

Happy Birthday: Being precise and articulate regarding your thoughts, plans and feelings will encourage good results. Aim high, show integrity and compassion, and focus on being your best and bringing out the best in those you encounter. Personal gain is within reach; all you have to do is set your plans in motion. Romance will improve your personal life. Your numbers are 6, 10, 19, 24, 33, 38, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Being a people pleaser will wear you down. Put your needs first, and concentrate on using your skills and knowledge to help you get ahead. A physical improvement will encourage better health. Revisit the past to avoid making the same mistake twice. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let confusion take over. Narrow-mindedness will lead you down a rabbit hole. When in doubt, ask questions, research and strive to get as much information as possible. You are better off taking a pass if your vision is cloudy. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Rely on your intelligence, foresight and discipline to help you get what you want when you want it. Make personal improvements that will fetch compliments as well as someone's undivided attention. A romantic suggestion will lead to a closer bond or commitment. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A professional change will help raise your income, but before you start spending, make sure

the money is in your account. Someone may ask you to pay back an old debt or donate to something that you cannot refuse. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your ability to act fast and to counter anyone trying to corner you before he or she has a chance will save you from an unfortunate mistake. Trust in yourself, and leave nothing to chance. Romance and personal growth are favored. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't believe everything you hear. Go directly to the source to get your information firsthand. A change of scenery will make you question the way you are living. Address, research and take care of health issues sufficiently. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Wheeling and dealing won't bring you the rewards you expect. Take a practical approach, and keep expenditures minimal and your promises doable. Too much of anything will lead to undesirable results. Strive for positive personal growth. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Refuse to let someone's negativity bring you down. Avoid discussions that can lead to an emotional argument. Put your time and effort into creative projects that you can work on by yourself. Don't make a change because someone else does. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Choose to spend time improving your surroundings or doing something that will bring you closer to someone you love. Share your feelings, and make long-term plans that give you the incentive to be and do your best. Romance is favored. ★★★★★

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick to the rules. If you overdo it or take on someone eager to fight, you will end up wasting time and energy on something that won't benefit you. Call on experience to guide you when insecurity surfaces. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stick close to home and to the ones you love. Surround yourself with the people and places you are most familiar with to avoid a situation that can lead to unwanted change. Personal improvement should be your goal. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Offer help, but don't share personal information with people you encounter. A change someone makes may tempt you to follow suit. Get the lowdown before you engage in something risky. Walk away from unpredictable people. ★★★★★

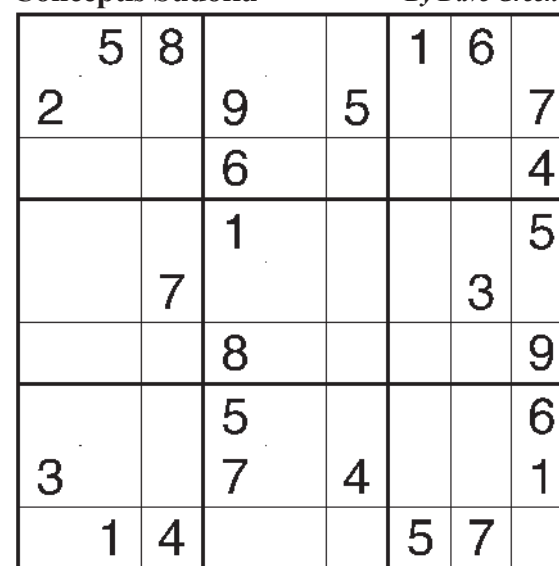
Birthday Baby: You are controversial, outgoing and persistent. You are engaging and confident.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★ ★

4/15

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	2	8	3	7	4	1	5	9
3	1	9	6	2	5	8	7	4
4	7	5	9	1	8	6	3	2
5	9	2	1	8	6	7	4	3
8	3	1	7	4	2	9	6	5
7	6	4	5	9	3	2	1	8
9	4	6	8	3	1	5	2	7
1	8	3	2	5	7	4	9	6
2	5	7	4	6	9	3	8	1

Big Tally Level ★★

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BLOSSOMING

Solution: 7 letters

C T R E G N O R T S U M M E R
E A R R E D N E S S H T U O Y
A N S I G L O T Y E P I R E R
M A I C L R B N A P V M N E R
A I D R A L L I A G P O R R E
R S P N A D I W D I H O L O B
Y E G R L T E U H E B L P B K
L E D L E H C S M L S B E E C
L R A D R T D E U I N D L L A
I F P L A N T S N L S M E L L
S T A T E I H Y R A A M M E B
T U L I P C S S U C A U O H S
A O R E T A W Y B T Y S N A P
E F O R S Y T H I A L M O N D
H Y R E H C S V Z I N N I A

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4/15

Almond, Amaranth, Annual, Blackberry, Bloom, Blush, Cascades, Cherry, Clematis, Daisy, Edible, Fall, Forsythia, Freesia, Friendship, Gaillardia, Heat, Hellebore, Honey, Hyacinth, Lemon, Lilac, Love, Nectarine, Orange, Pansy, Pear, Plants, Poppy, Pretty, Redness, Ripe, Root, Seeds, Smell, State, Stronger, Summer, Trillium, Tulip, Viburnum, Water, Winter, Youth, Zinnia

Yesterday's Answer: Doctor

Treasuries 14, 15, 17, 18 and 21 through 39 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Draft date unknown, but NBA presses on with evaluations



NEW YORK (AP)—There are many unknowns about the NBA draft, though some elements are proceeding as usual and one deadline is looming this week.

The NBA—as per usual—has been sending evaluations to players who are considering leaving college early and entering the draft and will continue doing so to all underclassmen who ask for them before Thursday's deadline. That task falls to the league's Undergraduate Advisory Committee, which understands that what it says in these uncertain times may carry even more weight than usual.

"This is a process that's important, maybe more important this year than ever," said Kiki VanDeWeghe, the NBA's Executive Vice President of Basketball Operations and UAC committee chair. "We're trying to get the athletes and the schools as much information as we possibly can. It's important that they have the clearest picture."

Because of the coronavirus pandemic that has shut down the sports world, including the NBA, nobody knows when the draft will be held, who will have the No. 1 overall pick or how that will be decided. Nobody even knows when or if the draft combine, which is scheduled for mid-May and technically has not yet been changed, will take place.

When underclassmen ask, the NBA sends evaluations with a percentage of likelihood that they will fall into one of five draft-night categories -- lottery (picks 1-14), first-round non-lottery (picks 15-30), first half of second round (picks 31-45), second half of second round (picks 46-60), and undrafted.

It's not an exact science, but the league has pretty good success with it: Since 2016, based on its own evaluation and feedback that the 30 NBA teams share as part of the process, the league has told 66 candidates that they are first-round material and 49 others that they wouldn't be drafted. They hit on 89% of those first-round projections and 96% of the undrafted projections.

"It is unprecedented times and difficult times for everybody and we try to do our best to make that easier for student athletes as far as navigating that process and understanding that process," VanDeWeghe said. "This is a time of uncertainty. Even in a normal year, student athletes are very nervous about applying of the draft. But our role in this is to try to give as much information as we possibly can."

The UAC will continue sending evaluations through April 26, which is also the league's deadline for players to officially decide if they will enter the draft. Typically, they could start setting up workouts almost immediately after that date but the league's shutdown in response to the coronavirus pandemic has all that on indefinite hold.

So far, about 200 college early entry and international players have tested the waters for this draft. Most will withdraw, and that number is consistent with last year—when the league saw 219 hopefuls. Those applicants are not just getting their potential draft slot, but the league is taking the additional step this year of offering mental health resources under the advice of Dr. Kensa Gunter and Dr. Vic—an extra and necessary part of the puzzle, the NBA thinks, given the unprecedented nature of these times.

The evaluation-request and



AP
In this Feb. 1, 2020, file photo, Kansas guard Devon Dotson (1) makes a layup during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game against Texas Tech in Lawrence, Kan. Dotson is entering the NBA draft after leading the Big 12 Conference in scoring in his sophomore season.

early entry deadlines aren't changing, as of now anyway, VanDeWeghe said. Everything else is on a very fluid timetable.

"The in-person workouts and the combine and all of that type of stuff looks like it will be significantly impacted by COVID-19, but it doesn't mean that the work stops," Los Angeles Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka said. "Our scouts are doing tons of film study. I'm doing tons of synergy, watching, studying guys overseas, studying guys here, and that work has to continue. We have to be as well-prepared as we can for when the draft occurs."

The draft was supposed to be June 25. That now seems highly unlikely, and plenty of teams have asked the NBA for a delay that looks inevitable. The NBA is looking at several options, just as it is when it comes to possibilities for resuming the season when public health officials say that would be appropriate.

Not having NCAA Tournament games is not hurting the process, VanDeWeghe said, noting that the players who are most likely to come out early—especially the likely lottery and first-round picks—have been well-known to teams and scouts for many years.

"We'll get through this," VanDeWeghe said. "We'll get through it together and hopefully come out the other side a little better, a little stronger, a little wiser."

CHICAGO (AP)—Arturas Karnisovas developed a passion for the Chicago Bulls when he was a teenager in Lithuania. He watched from afar as Michael Jordan set out on a path that turned Chicago into a championship dynasty and a global brand.

Now it's his job to direct Jordan's old team back to the top of the NBA.

The Bulls fired general manager Gar Forman on Monday, while officially hiring Karnisovas as their executive vice president of basketball operations and moving John Paxson into an advisory role.

The struggling Bulls handed the keys to the 48-year-old Karnisovas last week, convincing him to leave his job as GM of the Denver Nuggets. By making the move now rather than waiting until the

Karnisovas sets course to boost Bulls toward ultimate prize

season resumes or is called off, they believe they are giving him more time to evaluate the organization.

"This is my dream," Karnisovas said during a conference call. "Our ultimate goal is clearly to bring an NBA championship to the city of Chicago. ... A firm foundation is absolutely vital. I will build that here in Chicago. No skipping steps. There is a systematic approach to success."

Paxson is moving into a background role as senior advisor of basketball operations after nearly two decades running the department. He took over as general manager for Jerry Krause in 2003 and was promoted to vice president of basketball operations in May 2009, with Forman—who

joined the Bulls as a scout in 1998—becoming GM.

Chief operating officer Michael Reinsdorf said Paxson told him and his father Jerry Reinsdorf, the team's chairman, in December the front office needed to be restructured and it was time for someone else to lead the operation. Paxson offered to change his role and even step down.

"That's really the kind of person John is," Michael Reinsdorf said. "I've always said that: When the time came to make a change, John would be the one to let us know. That is indeed what ended up happening."

Jerry Reinsdorf said in a statement that Paxson—who hit the championship-winning 3-pointer for Chicago against

Phoenix in 1993—showed why he is "forever a willing teammate on and off of the court" by putting the Bulls' interests first and deciding to step aside.

While Paxson remains with the organization, Forman is out. And coach Jim Boylen's future remains unclear.

Karnisovas said he sees Paxson as "an asset" who can be a "huge help" as he adjusts to his new job.

As for Forman?

"After some consideration and conversations, it was apparent we have different philosophies that would prevent us from moving forward," Karnisovas said. "I'm sure Gar gave his best to the Bulls' organization. But those decisions are never easy. I was hired to affect change."

Karnisovas prefers a quick pace and players who can handle multiple positions. He offered no timetable for hiring a general manager or deciding the future of Boylen and his staff, saying he will "do a comprehensive evaluation of every department." He did confirm he has hired New Orleans salary-cap specialist J.J. Polk and Denver player-personnel director Pat Connelly for front-office positions.

The Bulls thought they were ready to contend for a playoff spot after combining for just 49 wins the past two seasons. Instead, they were 11th in the Eastern Conference at 22-43 when the NBA suspended play because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Denver is third in the Western Conference and leading the Northwest division with a 43-22 record.

Karnisovas starred at Seton Hall and had a successful international career that included two Olympic bronze medals for Lithuania. He worked in basketball operations for the NBA from 2003 to 2008 and spent five years as an international scout for the Houston Rockets before joining Denver's front office in 2013. He became the Nuggets' general manager four years later, with Tim Connelly promoted from GM to president of basketball operations.

Michael Reinsdorf said Karnisovas' name kept coming up in discussions with other owners, current and former general managers, league officials, ex-players, agents and even media members.

Panthers make McCaffrey highest-paid running back



CHARLOTTE, N.C.
(AP)—The Carolina Panthers have rewarded

Christian McCaffrey for his production and versatility, making him the highest-paid running back in the NFL.

The team agreed to a four-year, \$64 million contract extension with McCaffrey on Monday, a person familiar with the contract negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the Panthers have not announced the extension. Details on how much of the contract is fully guaranteed were unavailable.

The \$16-million-a-year deal eclipses Ezekiel Elliott's contract with the Dallas Cowboys that is worth \$15 million per season.

The extension keeps McCaffrey, 23, tied to the Panthers through the 2025 season. The coming season would be the final year of his rookie contract, and Carolina had the option to pick up a fifth year in 2021.

It appeared to a matter of when, not if, the extension was coming after Panthers coach Matt Rhule made it clear last week that he viewed McCaffrey as a vital part of the franchise moving forward.

"I think Christian McCaffrey is a centerpiece player that you can build around," Rhule said. "And I think he really builds to the culture that you want to have within the building."

McCaffrey ran for 1,387 yards and posted 1,005 yards receiving last season for the Panthers, joining Marshall Faulk and Roger Craig as the only running backs in NFL history to reach 1,000 yards in both categories in the same season.

The former first-round draft pick has been a spectacular selection for the Panthers, amassing 2,920 yards rushing and 2,523 yards receiving along with 39 touchdowns in three seasons. He is the only player in NFL history with at least 2,500 yards receiving and rushing in his first three seasons.

Panthers general manager Marty Hurney hinted last week that a contract extension was coming, saying the team was having "internal discussions." Hurney said then that "everyone knows what we think of Christian as a player."

There has been some question about whether the team has overused McCaffrey the past couple of seasons, with him playing more than 90% of the team's snaps—by far the most in the league by a running back.

But Rhule expects that new offensive coordinator Joe Brady, who helped lead LSU to a national championship



AP
In this Dec. 29, 2019 file photo, Carolina Panthers running back Christian McCaffrey (22) runs against New Orleans Saints free safety D.J. Swearingen (36) during the first half of an NFL game in Charlotte, N.C.

the Niners.

Verrett originally signed with the 49ers as a free agent in March 2019. He played only one game before being placed on season-ending injured reserve with a knee injury. He has played only 26 games since entering the league with the Chargers in 2014 because of a series of injuries.

In Las Vegas, linebacker Nicholas Morrow signed his restricted free agent tender with the Raiders.

The Raiders placed a second-round tender on Morrow last month worth about \$3.2 million. That allowed them to match any contract offer Morrow received from another team or they would get a second-round pick as compensation.

Morrow originally joined the Raiders as an undrafted free agent in 2017. He has played in all 48 games since joining the team and had 73 tackles and one interception in 2019, when he started eight games.

The Raiders previously signed Cory Littleton and Nick Kwiatkowski as free agents but still wanted Morrow back for depth and special teams play.

In Indianapolis, the Colts are making some minor changes to their uniforms this season.

Team officials on Monday announced several tweaks, the most noticeable being a switch from their most recent block font for jersey numbers to a more rounded typeface, reminiscent of what the franchise used in the 1950s and '60s.

The traditional horseshoe on the neckline of the jersey will be replaced by a new alternative logo—a block "C" that incorporates an outline of the state of Indiana and the seven grommets from the Colts' traditional logo. It's the first time the Colts have used the state outline since moving from Baltimore to Indianapolis in 1984.

"The horseshoe remains our most timeless mark, worn by some of the greatest players in NFL history and loved by some of football's greatest fans, Colts Nation," Colts vice chairwoman and owner Carlie Irsay-Gordon said in a statement. "These new logos—particularly our new Indiana logo—honor our rich history, cement our real and lasting connection to Indiana and embrace the exciting future that lies ahead."

last year, will be an important part of the offense.

"I hired Joe because I know that he's going to utilize guys to their strengths," Rhule said last week.

Of McCaffrey, Rhule said: "He's a tailback-slash-wideout, he can do it all, returner, too. So I'm anxious to get him out there and anxious to build this thing

around him. I think he's going to be a special player for us."

With McCaffrey locked up, the Panthers are expected to turn their attention to defense in the NFL draft next week.

Current Seahawks and former Panthers tight end Greg Olsen applauded the move on social media, tweeting "Beyond deserving."

In San Francisco, the 49ers re-signed cornerbacks Dontae Johnson and Jason Verrett to one-year contracts Monday.

Both Johnson and Verrett played sparingly for San Francisco last season but were brought back for depth in the secondary.

Johnson was an originally a fourth-round pick by San

Francisco in 2014 and spent his first four years with the team. He returned in 2019 and spent the offseason with the Niners before getting cut before the start of the season.

He played two games with the Chargers before getting cut. He returned to San Francisco in October and played seven games last season for

ESPN, NFL Network will combine for draft telecast

NEW YORK (AP)—ESPN and NFL Network will join forces for this year's NFL draft. They will produce a broadcast that will air on both networks over all three days.

The April 23-25 draft was originally scheduled to be in Las Vegas but has been moved due to the coronavirus pandemic. It will now originate from ESPN's headquarters in Bristol, Connecticut.

Draft hosts and a limited number of commentators will be in-studio but will adhere to social distancing guidelines. Other reporters and analysts will report remotely from home. Commissioner Roger Goodell will introduce first-round picks from his home in Bronxville, New York.

ABC will air a separate draft broadcast on Thursday and Friday before simulcasting the ESPN/NFL Network feed on Saturday.

The league previously an-

nounced that the draft will serve as a "Draft-A-Thon," which will pay tribute to health care workers and first responders. Funds raised will help support six national nonprofits and their relief efforts.

ESPN has broadcast the draft since 1980. NFL Network launched in the fall of 2003. Their first two drafts were done remotely from Los Angeles before they started reporting on site in 2006.

The NFL and its players union have agreed to conduct "virtual" offseason workout programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic until every team is permitted to open its facilities.

Teams can hold voluntary classroom instruction, workouts and non-football educational programs using online platforms, according to a memo sent to the teams that was obtained by The Associated Press.

League executive Troy Vincent said it's imperative to be "reasonable and responsible in the current environment."

The three-week, virtual offseason starts on April 20 for teams with new head coaches and April 27 for the others. It runs through May 15. Teams with a new head coach have the option to go four weeks.

A team can't begin its virtual program after April 27. Teams also can't save their virtual weeks for use after facilities open and players return to the field.

Participating players must be paid the \$235 daily minimum and players with offseason workout bonuses must be credited for their participation in those sessions. Each rookie player will receive a minimum of \$135 for each day he participates in a club's development program.

Teams can provide workout equipment worth up to

\$1,500 per player.

The league's offseason program concludes June 26. If stay-at-home orders throughout the country continue into the summer, teams will have to conduct a mandatory veteran minicamp in a virtual manner.

"Whatever we do is going to be in compliance with the governing rules of the particular state and it's going to be consistent with good and recommended medical health practices," NFL lead counsel Jeff Pash said. "We're going to do it in a way that preserves competitive equity and doesn't expose anyone to risks that the medical profession says people shouldn't be exposed to. We're going to rely on that kind of guidance."

Pash said the league has not discussed contingency plans to alter the schedule, or play games outside a team's home stadium.

Olympic delay costs IOC millions; Japan pays rest

TOKYO (AP)—The International Olympic Committee will face “several hundred million dollars” of added costs because of the postponement of the Tokyo Games, the body’s president said.

Thomas Bach spoke in an interview with German newspaper Die Welt on Sunday.

Estimates in Japan put the overall cost of the postponement at \$2 billion-\$6 billion. Except for the IOC portion, all added costs will be borne by the Japanese side according to an agreement signed in 2013 when Tokyo was awarded the Olympics.

Bach said it was “impossible to say for now” the extent of the added costs for the IOC caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

“We agreed with the prime minister that Japan will continue to cover the costs it would have done under the terms of the existing agreement for 2020, and the IOC will continue to be responsible for its share of the costs,” Bach said. “For us, the IOC, it is already clear that we shall be faced with several hundred million dollars of additional costs.”

Before the postponement, Japanese organizers put the official cost of the games at \$12.6 billion. However, a government audit report in 2019 said



the costs were at least twice that. All but \$5.6 billion of it is in taxpayer money.

Tokyo said the 2020 Games would cost about \$7.3 billion when it won the bid seven years ago.

On Friday, the CEO of the Tokyo organizing committee said the pandemic left some doubts about the games going ahead next year.

“I don’t think anyone would be able to say if it is going to be possible to get it under control by next July or not,” Toshiro Muto said, speaking through an interpreter. “We certainly are not in a position

to give you a clear answer.”

Bach was asked about the possibility of another postponement. He did not answer directly, but said later in the interview that Japanese organizers and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe “made it very clear to me that Japan could not manage a postponement beyond next summer at the latest.”

Bach was also asked if the pandemic provided an opportunity for some athletes to violate the doping rules with no threat of testing. Bach countered that the delay could allow new testing methods to

be developed. He also said tests made before the Olympics would be saved for 10 years for retesting.

“No one should feel confident that they don’t get caught,” he said.

Bach was asked about Russia’s status for the Olympics in 2021. Last year, Russia was hit with a four-year ban from international sports—including the Olympics—because of a doping scandal. However, many Russian athletes were expected to be allowed to compete if they could show they were clean.

“The Russia question is currently under consideration

In this July 24, 2019 file photo, from left, Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike, Tokyo 2020 president Yoshiro Mori, International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach, and Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attend the “One Year to Go” ceremony celebrating the one year out from the start of the summer games at the Tokyo International Forum in Japan.

by the CAS, the independent international Court of Arbitration for Sport, so it wouldn’t be right for me to comment on it,” Bach said.

Bach said he had not decided if he will run for re-election next year. He also pointed out that the IOC had insurance that covered a cancellation, but not a postponement.

The election will take place in 2021, and Bach is required to notify of his intentions six months before the vote. He

was first elected in 2013 and is widely expected to seek another term.

“There’s still plenty of time,” he said.

Second chance for banned athletes

Athletes completing doping bans over the next year will be eligible to compete in the postponed Tokyo Olympics, an unintended effect of the coronavirus pandemic that has some crying foul.

Turkish runner Gamze Bulut, for example, will now have plenty of time to qualify for a games she likely would have missed had they gone ahead as scheduled.

“It doesn’t seem like a fair punishment,” Irish race walker Brendan Boyce told The Associated Press in a phone interview. “They haven’t really missed the events they were supposed to miss.”

DIFFICULT

From Page 20

to consider making changes to the schedule of the Mini Games to avoid clashing with Olympics. Initially, the 2021 Mini Games is set for June and PGC is hoping it may be moved to the latter part of next year or early 2022. The PGC is giving the Commonwealth time to decide on the request.

If the CNMI makes the call, Barnes believes it should be made soon.

“Canceling the Games is a very tough decision that needs to be considered soon and this decision can’t wait too long to see if perhaps the economy will turnaround. It could take a year or more for the economy to revitalize. The Olympics have already been moved from 2020 to 2021, or over the same time frame as the 2021 Mini Games so another date would have to be agreed upon. 2022 will also see the Micronesian Games being held in Majuro (Marshall Islands), another conflict,” said the former Northern Marianas Athletics president and author of the book “*Sports Legends of Micronesia*.”

Next year’s Mini Games would be the first time that the event will come to Saipan and logistically, the now California-based Barnes said that CNMI sports officials and other stakeholders are up to the task.

“It is a true honor to be able to host and present a memorable Games for all Pacific and Oceania nations to partake in. I am also sure that the NMSA board members, the local organizing committee, the community, and CNMI athletes all are and have been focused, dedicated and ready to plan,

organize, carry through, and participate in these Games,” Barnes said.

“The beat down facilities could easily be renovated in time to allow for safe and inspiring competition. Yes, the hosting of the Games would certainly showcase the beauty of Saipan, the hospitality of its people, and would be a sports extravaganza to be remembered by all,” he added.

However, allotting and using available resources, especially government funds, to prepare for the Games at these trying times would be hard to overlook.

“There is still one missing item—money. Money to host the Games,” Barnes said.

Late last year, the PGC has devised a payment scheme that would make it easier for the CNMI government to finance the Games. It would cost the CNMI \$3 million (down from the original proposal of \$8 million) to hold the regional event, but majority of the payments are scheduled for next year. Part of the costs will also come from fees charged to participating countries.

“My main reason is how would one justify the hosting of this multi-sport event while all PSS teachers have been furloughed, government employees have been laid off or furloughed, the CNMI retirees have had their pensions reduced by at least 25%, and the CNMI economy is in a virtual free fall. If there is no money to pay salaries of the above-mentioned people, how can anyone justify hosting these Games?” Barnes said.

“Yes, it is a difficult decision to make. The reason to cancel, however, is in plain view and the sooner the decision is made the better,” he added.

ROLLERS

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“I review the drills they do and correct them if they made mistakes,” said Diaz, who personally appeared in the videos to demonstrate the proper way of doing the basketball drills.

Drills differ every week,

giving players enough time to master them.

“This week, we have the left hand dribble and then in and out. This week is all about working on the handle,” the Rollers coach said.

Majority of Rollers players are participating in the online program, including the group’s female members.

The club has 122 players, according to Diaz, who encouraged their members to keep working on their skills amid this crisis.

“Do something at home, stay fit and active. I know it’s hard, but let’s stay positive and pray that this coronavirus will be gone, soon,” the Rollers mentor said.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this file photo, Rollers 2’s Jay Art Palmes throws up a shot against two Ol’Aces 1 defenders during their boys U18 game in the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rollers Basketball Club player Kaia Travilla practices her dribbling skills after following a demonstration video sent by coach Joe Diaz.



Draft date
unknown, but
NBA presses on
with evaluations

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Panthers make
McCaffrey
highest-paid
running back

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CANCELING 2021 MINI GAMES

'Difficult, right decision'



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI Sports Hall of Fame and former Northern Marianas Sports Association vice president Kurt Barnes, second left, is seen here with contractors bidding for the resurfacing of the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility inspecting the oval in 2016.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Playing the devil's advocate, CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Kurt Barnes believes canceling the 2021 Pacific Mini Games is a tough decision to make, but the right one.

"If I had to decide today, and in my own opinion, I would have to say cancel the Games and bid for another opportunity to host future games," said Barnes, a former Northern Marianas Sports Association official and was among the organizers of the historic 1969 Micronesian Olympics held on Saipan.

The CNMI won the hosting rights for the 2021 Mini Games in 2014, while the government and the Pacific Games Council have already signed the contract for the staging of the quadrennial event early this year. An oversight committee has

also been created to look into the Commonwealth's preparation for the hosting of the Mini Games. Then came the COVID-19 pandemic and questions on whether the Mini Games should be postponed or canceled were raised, especially after the 2020 Tokyo Olympics has been rescheduled to next year due to the crisis.

A week after the new schedule (July 23 to Aug. 8, 2021) of the Tokyo event has been announced, the PGC has reached out to the CNMI, requesting

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SAMOA GAMES

Athletes compete in the 100m hurdles during last year's Pacific Games in Apia Samoa. Athletics is one of the sports included in the program of events for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

Rollers players work on skills at home

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Rollers coach sends his players videos on different basketball drills. Players

then follow the demonstration and take videos of their drills. Videos are then sent to

Diaz for evaluation.

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Basketball Club.

Rollers head coach Joe Diaz said that although social distancing and curfew are in effect in the CNMI because of the COVID-19 pandemic preventing them from practicing and playing outside, the group's players still have the opportunities to hone their skills.

"We do online drills. We never stop learning and we want to keep the kids active and busy even though they are at home," Diaz said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A screen grab of the video shared by Rollers Basketball Club coach Joe Diaz shows him demonstrating dribbling skills to their players.